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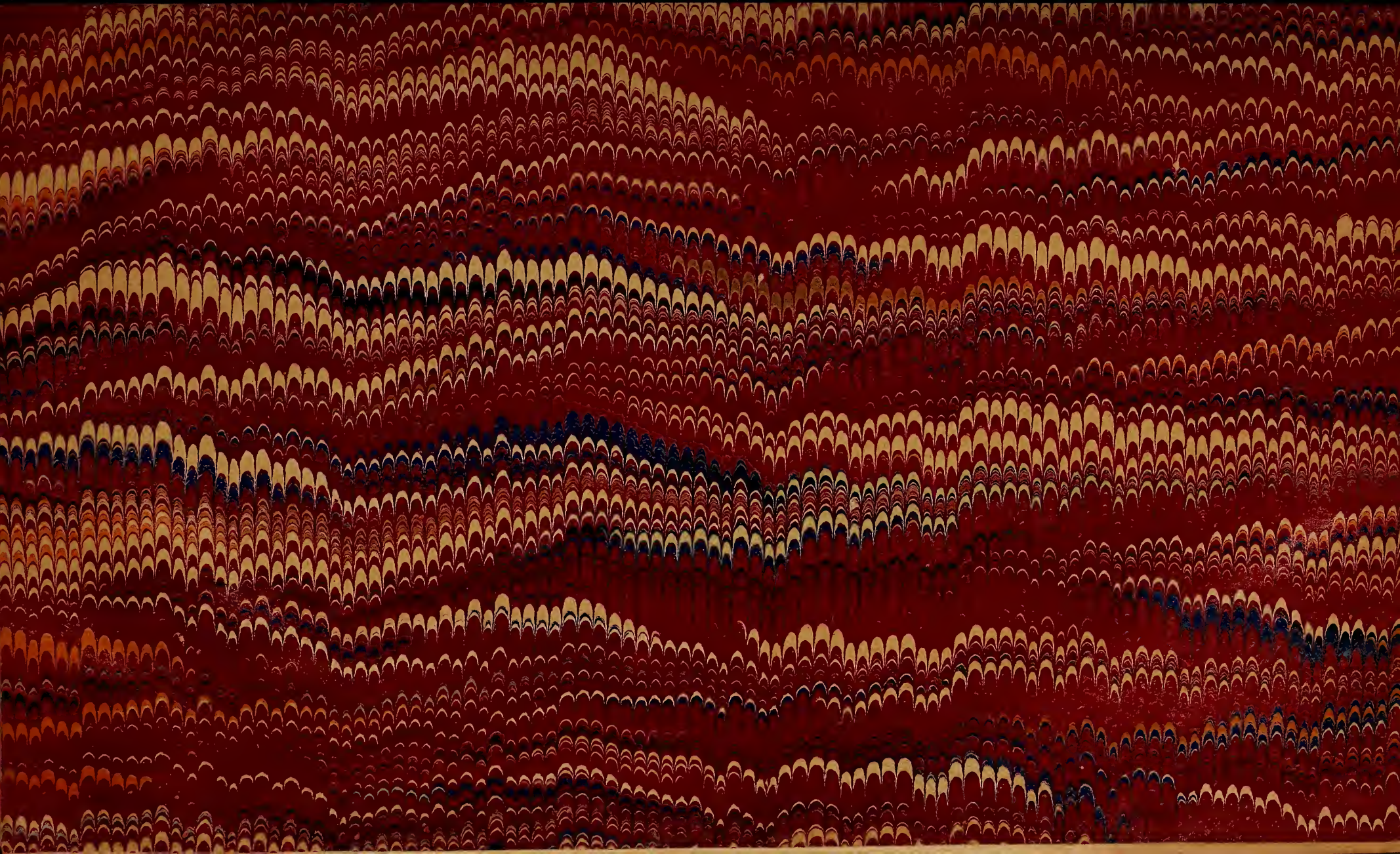

MEMORIAL

SOLICITING A

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

SUBMITTED TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

FEBRUARY 3, 1845.

Dorothea Lynde Dix

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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—I come to represent to you the condition of a numerous and unhappy class of sufferers, who fill the cells and dungeons of the poor houses and the prisons of your state. I refer to the pauper and indigent insane, epileptics, and idiots of Pennsylvania. I come to urge their *claims* upon the commonwealth for protection and support, such protection and support as is only to be found in a well-conducted Lunatic Asylum.

I do not solicit you to be generous; this is an occasion rather for the dispensation of justice. These most unfortunate beings have claims, those *claims* which bitter misery and adversity creates, and which it is your solemn obligation as citizens and legislators to cancel. To this end, as the advocate of those who are disqualified by a terrible malady, from pleading their own cause, I ask you to provide for the immediate establishment of a State Hospital for the Insane.

If this shall appear to some of you an untimely demand on the State Treasury; and a too hastily, too importunately urged suit, I must ask all such to go forth, as I have done, and traversing the state in its length and breadth, examine with patient care the condition of this suffering, dependent multitude, which are gathered to your alms-houses and your *prisons*, and scattered under adverse circumstances in indigent families; *weigh the iron chains, and shackles, and balls, and ring-bolts, and bars and manacles; breathe the foul atmosphere of those cells and dens, which too slowly poisons the springs of life; examine the furniture of these dreary abodes, some for a bed have the luxury of a truss of straw; and some have the cheaper couch, which the hard, rough plank supplies! Examine their apparel. The air of heaven is their only vesture. Are you disquieted and pained to learn these facts? There are worse realities yet to be revealed under your vigilant investigations. The revolting exposure of men; the infinitely more revolting and shocking exposure of women; with combinations of miseries and horrors that will not bear recital. Do you start and shrink from the grossness of this recital? What then is it to witness the appalling reality?* Do your startled perceptions refuse to admit these truths? They exist still; the proof and *the condition* alike; *neither have passed away.* The idiot mother; the naked women in the packing boxes;* but yet for these last, perhaps, the legal measures resorted to for their relief have been availing. Perhaps both judge and jury have interposed for those, some merciful change. This relief may be but temporary, and may disappear with the first indignant excitement which procured it; for the effectual, permanent remedy and alleviation of all these troubles and miseries, this appeal is now made to the Legislature of Pennsylvania; and, gentlemen, you perceive that it is *just, not generous action*, I ask at your hands.

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* See Histories of Counties.

It cannot be forgotten that, successively in the years of 1838 and 1840, earnest efforts were made by benevolent citizens of the state, to procure for the pauper and indigent insane, the benefit of curative treatment and hospital protection. The gentlemen who engaged in this object, I have learned, spared neither time nor labour to accomplish what was justly deemed so important a work. An association of residents in Philadelphia, of which Thomas P. Cope, Esq., was chairman, published and circulated a pamphlet, written with ability, which was designed to give much valuable information on the treatment of insanity, &c. This was received with the consideration which the subject merited; and Mr. Konigmacher, of Ephrata, was appointed chairman of a committee, in the House of Representatives, to report upon the subject. This was done with eloquence and precision, in a document of considerable length, which was read in the House, March 11th, 1839. Mr. Konigmacher accompanied his report with a bill, which passed the House of Representatives with but little opposition, and the Senate unanimously; but on account of financial embarrassments was not sanctioned by the executive. In 1840, a second appeal from the association of gentlemen before referred to, was printed and circulated at their expense. This pamphlet embodied a mass of statistical information calculated to throw much additional light upon the subject. The result was, an appropriation by the Legislature, and the appointment of commissioners to carry forward and complete the establishment of a state institution. The work was shortly interdicted through the influence of circumstances which it is unnecessary to explain here.

Meanwhile, the evil for which the wise and benevolent sought a remedy, has gone on to increase. Sufferings have been multiplied with additional cases of the malady. Many who might have been restored by timely treatment, have become, either through the violence of disease, or unavoidable mismanagement, hopelessly insane. Many others are fast verging to the same pitiable condition; and new cases of almost daily occurrence, remind the beholder that a similar destiny awaits these, if no asylum opens its friendly shelter, and renders remedial care in season to avert the impending calamity.

You are not solicited to commence a work of doubtful value, capable of producing uncertain benefits. The age of experiment has passed by: the experience of those of your sister states, who have preceded you in this enterprise of mercy, assures you that thousands, through the skilful care received in hospitals for the insane, have been restored to society and to usefulness, to reason and to happiness.

Beside recent and curable cases, there is yet another class, the very extremity and certainty of whose condition appeals most strongly and affectingly to your humane sensibilities. I mean those from whom, in all probability, the light of reason is forever veiled: dependent, irresponsible, often much suffering beings, they seem from the very entireness and certain duration of their dependence, to demand a peculiar consideration. Abandon not these of your fellow citizens to any miseries which you can cause to be relieved or mitigated.

This subject comes home to all, to every one; on this ground all alike may suffer; the rich and the poor, the learned and the uneducated, the young, the mature, and the aged; from this malady none are sure of exemption; and the often reverses of fortune teach, that none are so prosperous that they may not need to share the asylum which is solicited now to shelter others.

Through the bond of our common humanity, we may become as they now are. Let imagination for a moment place you in their stead, or rather let it so place those you love, those you cherish, those who are dearer to you than is your own life, and then declare, if you could abandon them to the horrid noisome cell; and to ignorant pauper attendants; uninterested, unpaid, and reluctant nurses; or could you yield them to the strong holds of

the jails and prisons, there to be companions of the felon, and the thief, and the abased vicious drunkard: there to be abandoned to their caprices, and subject to their daily taunts and heartless jeers. I am not suggesting unreal, impossible conditions; you can witness these scenes as I have done, and learn, too, corroboration of these hardships and sufferings from the unwilling keepers of these unfortunate men and women, who, dangerous to the community, through property-destroying or homicidal propensities, must endure this bondage till a state asylum opens its doors to receive them. There are some, but the number is not large, who, bound down to low views of the mutual obligations of man to man, and to imperfect perceptions of the sublime truths of the moral law, will argue, that many, very many of those who are found in wretched circumstances in alms-houses and in prisons, have, by their own follies and vices, brought on themselves the calamity which henceforth casts them out from the accustomed walks of life. No doubt this is true; but why should society visit upon the transgressor who becomes insane, a so much harsher retribution, than upon the transgressor who retains his senses? It is very well known, that by far the largest portion of those who become wholly dependent on public charity, have been brought to that condition either by their own indiscretion or misdemeanours; yet these find the sympathy they seek, and the aid they solicit; for them an appropriate home is often provided, and their necessities are bountifully administered to. There is yet another view of this subject.

Suppose the insane in many cases to have wrought their own ruin, shall man be more just than God? Does he not send his sun to shine upon the evil and unthankful, as upon the obedient and the good? Again, is it not to the habits, the customs, the temptations of civilized life and society, that we owe most of these calamities? Should not society, then, make the compensation which alone can be made for these disastrous fruits of its social organization? Concede this, and I do not know how it is to be evaded, and your course of action is made plain by a duty not to be mistaken. Economy, justice, humanity, and mercy, that attribute of the Deity, combine to direct your deliberations and determine your judgment.

Of the *fifty-eight* counties in this state, *twenty-one* contain poor-house establishments; and the remainnig *thirty-seven* sustain their paupers by annual distribution in families, who receive them at "the lowest rate for which they are bidden." I think it may be conceded, that in the majority of cases, defective as is the poor-house supervision for the insane, they are more comfortable, or rather, often less borne down by the accumulation of their sufferings in these institutions, than in private families, where every arrangement is interfered with, and from which all quiet is banished. Few have skill to control the furious, or to manage the refractory; and not many have that patient endurance which is tested to the utmost in the care of excited insane persons.

Next after private families and poor houses, the insane will be found in the jails and penitentiaries. On this subject, the opinion of some of your jurists has been so explicitly declared, that I feel it but justice to the cause to give this expression of their sentiments place here—justifying the sentences of insane convicts to prisons, on the undeniable ground of necessity, "inasmuch as there is no State Hospital."

"Philadelphia, March 5, 1839.

"The want of an asylum for the insane poor, often occasions painful embarrassments to the courts, when the defence in a criminal charge is insanity fully sustained in proof. Although the jury may certify that their acquittal is on that ground, and thus empower the court to order the prisoner into close custody, *yet that custody can be in no other place than the common prisons*, places illy qualified for such a subject of incarceration. We

cannot doubt that the ends of justice would be greatly promoted, if such an asylum as the petitioners contemplate were established with proper regulations, and the courts were authorized to commit to it persons acquitted of crimes on the plea of insanity."

(Signed,) EDWARD KING,
ARCHIBALD RANDALL,
J. RICHTER JONES,
Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

JAMES TODD,
J. BOUVIER,
R. T. CONRAD,
Judges of the Criminal Sessions.

I fully concur in the above representation.

CALVIN BLYTHE,
Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District.

It is believed that all the judges of the courts of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having criminal jurisdiction, would coincide in the above opinion. From many I have had the most direct personal assurance to that effect.

Passing from the prisons, &c., we perceive that in the state, are at present two established hospitals or asylums for the Insane—not including that populous department of the Philadelphia Alms-house, which is called the Alms-house hospital for the Insane. The Asylum at Frankford, about six miles north of the city, and established by the Society of Friends, in May 1817, and which can receive about fifty patients, and the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, west of the Schuylkill, nearly two miles from the city, have been severally established by the humanity and munificence of private individuals, chiefly citizens of Philadelphia. These two institutions are almost constantly filled to their utmost capacity; or when vacancies occur by the recovery and removal of patients, they are shortly filled by others, whose distressed friends seek for them the benefits which these institutions are so well calculated to secure. The latter asylum, which is under the superintendence of Dr. Kirkbride, can receive but about two hundred patients with their attendants, so that we find a very large number whose recent attack, or the violence of the malady, make peculiarly the subjects of judicious hospital treatment, altogether without the means of relief. The only provision, therefore, and this made by individual benefactions, for the insane of the large state of Pennsylvania, is found in the immediate vicinity of the commercial capital. Far and wide, over an extent of hundreds of miles, from east to west, and north to south, are large numbers of your citizens *declining into irrecoverable insanity* through the want of an institution which it now depends upon the legislature of Pennsylvania to establish on a broad and secure foundation.

It is not expected, it is not asked, that, at this time, you should make ample provision for all the insane of the State. If, at this period, you build a hospital to receive *recent cases*, and such as may still be judged capable of restoration; if you will take from your prisons such as are there most unrighteously imprisoned, you will accomplish an amount of good which exceeds computation; a good that will reach to and bless succeeding generations; and, at some more prosperous period in your financial concerns, you may be able to complete what now you commence upon a moderate and limited plan—that is to say, you may establish as many institutions as the wants of a populous country, and the consequent dependence and maladies of a portion of the community require and will demand.

The *importance of timely remedial treatment* is obvious. The opinion of all the intelligent medical men in Pennsylvania, and throughout the Union, supports this view. An illustration of the advantage of seasonable care, considered merely in reference to economy, is exhibited in the appendix, by tables drawn from the returns of some of the hospitals in our own country. This question, so clearly demonstrated by these, needs no additional argument, yet it may be gratifying to read several brief extracts from

the annual reports of several of the hospitals for the insane in the United States.

"The importance of early treatment," says Dr. Awl, "cannot be too strongly urged."

Dr. Ray, of the Maine State Asylum, repeats this in his annual reports with strong emphasis, and his opinion must have weight wherever his name is known.

Dr. Butler, of the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, writes in his report for 1844—"The results of the early commitment of the cases of insanity to the curative appliances of this and similar institutions, present a most convincing evidence of its good policy as well as of its humanity. They justify us in expecting that, of cases, where the duration of disease *has been less than one year*, from eighty to ninety per cent. will recover; where it has existed from one to five years, from twenty to thirty per cent.; from five to ten years, about twelve per cent.; and when of longer duration, not more than five per cent. *Delay* in applying the appropriate treatment, rapidly diminishes the chances of recovery."

Dr. Kirkbride, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, writing of the importance of *early* treatment for this class of patients, says, in his report for 1842: "Not a month elapses that we do not have to regret that some individual is placed under our care *after* the best period for restorative treatment has passed. The general proposition that truly recent cases of insanity are commonly very curable, and that chronic ones are only occasionally so, may be considered as fully established, and *ought at this day to be every where understood*;" and again in another year's report, the same truth is still urged. "It cannot be too earnestly impressed upon those whose friends are afflicted with insanity, that all experience goes to prove that, in its earliest stages, it is generally curable, *and that every week it is left without treatment goes to diminish the prospect of restoration.*"

Dr. Luther V. Bell, whose professional experience and high intellectual ability give authority to his opinions, writes as follows in his report for 1843–'44:—"In regard to the curability of insanity in its different manifestations, there *can be no general rule better established than that this is directly in the ratio of the duration of the symptoms.*"

In the twenty-third annual report of that branch of the Massachusetts General Hospital, known as the McLean Asylum for the Insane, near Charlestown, Mass., Dr. Bell again refers with clearness and precision to this subject. "The records of the asylum justify the declaration, that *all cases certainly recent*, that is, whose origin does not directly or obscurely run back more than a year, *recover under a fair trial. This is the general* law, the *occasional* instances to the contrary are the *exceptions.*" In this opinion, Dr. Ray, of the Maine Hospital, concurs.

The directors of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum remark, in their third report, that "the importance of remedial means in the *first* stages of insanity, cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind."

Dr. Chandler, superintendent of the New Hampshire Asylum, says, in the report for 1843, that "it is *well established* that the earlier patients are placed under curative treatment, in hospitals, *the more speedy and sure is the recovery.*"

Dr. Brigham, superintendent of the New York State Asylum, writes as follows, in his first report of that institution: "Few things relating to the management and treatment of the insane, are so *well established* as the necessity of their *early* treatment, and of their removal from home in order to effect recovery. There are exceptions, no doubt. By examining the records of well conducted lunatic asylums, it appears that more than eight out of ten of the recent cases recover, *while not more than one in six* of the old cases are cured."

Dr. Rockwell, of the Vermont State Asylum, says, in his report for 1841, "It will be seen that a far greater proportion of recent cases recover than of those which are of long standing. It is very desirable that the Insane

should be placed under curative treatment in the early stages of the disease."

In Dr. Awl's fifth annual report, I find the following remarks: "We exceedingly rejoice that it is now a settled policy with the citizens of Ohio, to make abundant provision for the reception of *every* insane patient, whether male or female, rich or poor, curable or incurable. *Public safety*, *equity*, and *economy*, alike require that this should be so."

"Fearful as is the disease of insanity, the experience of this and other institutions of the United States, has clearly shown that, with seasonable aid, it is by no means an incurable disease. That, under *proper medical and moral treatment, a large proportion do perfectly recover.* And of those who are absolutely incurable, a vast number can always be greatly improved, and made comfortable and useful. *In our judgment, it is entirely* wrong to consider a certain class of incurables as harmless, and proper to be discharged from the institution, because it 'does not *seem* dangerous to the peace of the community that they should go at large.' This cannot certainly be known, either in or out of the asylum: neither can a bond afford any proper security to the public; for the peaceable and inoffensive are easily excited, and it is possible for the most imbecile lunatic to take life or fire a city. It is also certain that they must all receive attention, and have a being somewhere in the land; and a majority of them at the public expense. We therefore unhesitatingly conclude that the only safe and correct course, either for the insane themselves, or for their friends and society, is to provide ample accommodations for them, when there will be opportunity for every one to experience comfort and relief."

Dr. Brigham, speaking of the benefit of labour for the insane, especially in the open air, adds that "incurable cases, instead of being immured in jails, and in the town and county-houses without employment, where they are continually losing mind, and becoming worse, should be placed in good asylums, and have employment on the farm or in shops. In this way they would in general be rendered much happier, and some would probably recover." "A broad distinction should be made between the *sane* and the *insane* poor, as regards providing for their comfort. The former may have in a good county poor-house most essential comforts, *provided the insane are not kept in it;* but the insane themselves, unless they have an *especial* care in reference to their disordered minds, have little or none."

Quoting again from the report of the physician of the asylum at Columbus, showing the benefits of hospital treatment, we read: "It is now five years since this great enterprise of humanity was opened to the unfortunate and afflicted in the State. During this period *four hundred and seventy-three* insane persons have been committed to the care of the institution. Two hundred and three have recovered the right use of their reason, and returned to their friends; eighteen were discharged, improved in various degrees of mental and physical health, and a large proportion of the remainder have been reclaimed from wretchedness and suffering, from filth and nakedness, from violence which caused apprehension and danger, and from anguish and melancholy, which could only be exhibited in silence and in tears."

Dr. Kirkbride remarks, in his report upon the Pennsylvania Insane Hospital for 1842, the great importance of bringing patients under early curative treatment, and first, in regard to its economy:

"The economy of subjecting cases of mental derangement to proper treatment, immediately upon the occurrence of an attack, has not been generally understood, *or no State* would have neglected to make adequate provision for the early care of all who were thus afflicted. There can be no question, but that every community not having within itself the proper means, would save largely by sending their recent cases to some well conducted insane hospital, and retaining them there, as long as there was a prospect for their restoration. If this was done, a large proportion of them would, in a few months, be restored to society, instead of continuing as is

now too apt to be the case, a charge to their friends or the public, during the remainder of their lives.

"This is not merely conjecture; by referring to the register of this institution, I find that the actual average cost of supporting the first twenty successive cases that were discharged cured—from the time of their admission till their return home, was only *fifty-two dollars and fifty cents* each—while in the first twenty incurable cases that were received in this house, at the same rate of expense, from the time of the commencement of the disease till 1841, the average cost of each to their friends, was *three thousand and forty-five dollars.* And in the published reports of the Massachusetts State Hospital, it is shown from positive data, that the actual cost to the public of maintaining twenty-five consecutive cases of recent insanity till their restoration, was only *fifty-six* dollars each, while the cost in the same number of chronic ones, already averaged *nineteen hundred and three dollars* and *sixty cents* each.

"The expense in the one instance, is only for a few months, when the individual returns to the care of his family or business; in the other, it is a support for life, often a long one, and, not unfrequently, if the individual be the head of a family, the support of a family in addition."

From allusions made on the first pages of this memorial, to the inappropriate, unjust, and sometimes barbarous treatment of the insane poor, it will be expected that I shall sustain assertions by evidence. I have, therefore, prepared from my note book, some account of the condition in which I have found the poor-houses, jails, and prisons of the Commonwealth, during more than four months laborious journeyings, devoted to inquiry and investigation. I describe those establishments *as I found them.* The sane paupers in the poor houses, almost without exception, are well and liberally provided for. The insane, almost without exception, are inappropriately and injudiciously situated. This is not so much the fault of these establishments, as their misfortune. Poor-houses never can be made suitable places for the reception of, and treatment of, the insane. Of the six well-directed county prisons in the United States, Pennsylvania has the honourable distinction of containing three, and these I consider established on the best system; but not suitable in any respect as asylums for mad-men and mad-women. Your State penitentiaries, of which I shall shortly take occasion to write more at length, are conducted as they are established, upon the best system human wisdom, and justice, and humanity, has yet devised. But the penitentiaries were not planned and built as hospitals, where the physical maladies of the insane should find remedial and appropriate treatment; nor can they with due regard to the discipline and regulations to which they are subject, be thus occupied. One does not know how to employ mild terms, in touching upon the shameful injustice of *sending maniacs, who for years have been known to labour under this distressing malady, to prison.* "To do justly and love mercy is better than sacrifice;" and, gentlemen, to redress these many grievances may be your beneficent and noble work.

In Mr. Konigmacher's report for 1839, the number of idiots and insane in this Commonwealth, is represented as "*at least twenty-three hundred.*" Of these, it was supposed "that at least *one thousand* were in *county prisons and poor-houses*, the residue being supported on their own resources, or upon private charity."

The results of my direct personal inquiry show that there are large numbers who are not in prisons or poor-houses, whose condition is yet more deplorable: I mean those who are supported *by the towns and counties*, scattered in families who consent to receive them at the lowest rates. But the result of my investigations, generally, is shown in the notes on the counties. I will only add, that a portion of the whole number of insane and idiots are beyond the reach, unhappily, of medical treatment. For them, a comfortable care is all that can be asked, or that can be availing.

The Lancaster County Jail is a substantial and somewhat extensive structure, built of limestone, but the plan is very defective, affording small

opportunity for classifying or separating the prisoners. Of the thirty-one prisoners seen there in July and the first of August, three were insane, and four were females. Some of the jail rooms were nineteen feet by twenty, and ten high, often insufficiently ventilated by opening the windows. The area of the exercise yard covers two-thirds of an acre. The allowance of food is *one pound* of bread per day, with as much water as they choose. If they can afford to purchase other articles of provisions it is permitted, but these they work for themselves in the jail. I saw no beds—three blankets are allowed to each man. The punishments are fetters and collar—no solitary cells except the dungeons below, which are damp, and I believe disused altogether. Here I was informed the prisoners are sometimes detained for months, waiting trial, without employment—left to idleness, that nurse of crime, and to evil communications, which corrupt the juvenile offender, and plunge yet deeper into ignominious habits, the old transgressor. If it were the deliberate purpose of society to establish criminals in all that is evil, and to root out the last remains of virtuous inclination, this purpose could not be more effectually accomplished than by incarceration in the county jails, as they are, with few exceptions, constructed and governed. What can be expected of a system which not only condemns criminals to companionship, but to the most absolute idleness? Neither work nor books, neither counsels nor cautions, find place in the jails of our country. The State penitentiaries are, for the most part, carefully disciplined, and there are some appliances to heal the moral diseases which corrode the soul and debase the man; but society, with a strange inconsistency, first *establishes* the disease, first inflicts the wound, first imbues the whole heart and mind with evil—and *then*, with Christian zeal, hurries with the spiritual physician to the sin-sick victim, and finally marvels that so few cures of the disease crown these benevolent efforts! as if bad habits confirmed, and pollution become familiar, were now to be eradicated and purified by a few months, or even years, of care and restraint. It is respectfully suggested to those interested in this subject, to visit successively the Moyamensing Prison, in Philadelphia; the County Jail of Chester county, at West Chester; and the Dauphin County Jail at Harrisburg; and then, the Allegheny County Jail at Pittsburgh; the Erie County Jail at Erie; and the Lancaster County Jail at Lancaster; and they can make a fair and full comparison between a good system and a bad system; between wholesome regulations and vicious influences; between institutions which are an honour to the morals and intellect of a community, and establishments which are a disgrace to both. In two or three particulars it would be unjust and untrue to rank Lancaster jail with the jails at Pittsburgh and Erie, as I saw them all; the former was *clean*, a term which in no possible mode or manner could apply to the latter. The officers of the former were sensible of the great defects of the system, and of the demoralizing influences, especially upon young offenders; those of the latter, apparently, cared nothing at all about the matter. In the former, religious teaching sometimes broke in upon the corrupting conversations of the prisoners; in the latter never. The jailor of the Lancaster Prison was very desirous that employment should be introduced as a part of the prison system, and was ready to promote such a change. He also remarked that while he took such care of the insane as the system and the bad architectural arrangements of the prison permitted, yet it was not possible to render them comfortable or to protect them from the other prisoners, who were disposed to make sport of them, to teaze and irritate them to the utmost, and, if possible, to promote quarrels and fighting. For the insane in prisons, is no State Hospital needed?

Lancaster County Poor-House, founded in 1799, and since increased by the addition of a hospital, is well-built, and well-situated, with an excellent and well-conducted farm attached, and a hospital, constructed of brick, for the invalids, the sick, and the insane. Besides these are numerous outbuildings commodiously planned, and adapted to the convenience of carrying

forward the household labour, as a bake-house, smoke-house, milk-house, wash-house, &c. &c. The recorded number of poor maintained here during the year, from May, 1843 to 1844, has afforded a constant average of two hundred and fifty-four paupers per month, exclusive of three hundred and seventeen way-faring persons who received supper, lodging and breakfast during the year —seventy-eight cases of out-door relief are recorded, at a cost of eight hundred and thirty-four dollars. The salary of the steward is four hundred dollars; that of the clerk two hundred and seventy-five; and that of the matron, or hospital nurse, who has the sole charge of that department, which, at the time of my visit, contained one hundred and fifteen, being more than half the paupers of the establishment, and *forty-six* of these insane, is *ninety* dollars. The salary of the steward is sufficient; that of the clerk *ample;* that of the matron altogether below the half of what would be a just compensation for the various very responsible and difficult duties required of her. Her cares are never diminished or intermitted, and as she gives all her time and strength faithfully to the work, if some deficiencies are apparent she cannot be censured. By means of pipes, from a never-failing source, ample supplies of water are conveyed into both the hospital and main building. Both these establishments are extremely neat, and well conducted, excepting only the lunatic department, and that the defective architecture of the building prevents in no small measure.

The estimated number of insane in Lancaster county, five years since, was rather more than *one hundred.* I have not been able to arrive at any certain result by which the present number can be estimated, but intelligent physicians, whose practice extends over a considerable territory, believe there are not fewer than one hundred and fifty. So little benefit has been derived from the gathering of the insane into the poor-house hospital, which, in this county, has some uncommon advantages, that, according to the estimate of a skilful physician, there were but five recoveries in ten years, or but one recovery in every eighty-two patients. About half the patients last August, had the liberty of the premises; others were confined in their cells or to the wards, and a few were ranging a small enclosure called the exercise yard. This miserable place was utterly comfortless, exposed and inconvenient. The hot sun beat down upon the unconscious or half conscious patients. With bare head exposed to the direct and burning rays, they strayed round the small area, or lay extended upon the ground. Not a tree even shaded the place, and one almost felt that it was but an additional evil, that they were permitted to be abroad, exposing them to the sun or the tempest, the drought, the heat, or the cold, according to the season. Here were no competent "care-takers," except the matron: her assistance and authority were necessary in all cases, directing and superintending the feeble and the recovering paupers. These, who were employed as attendants and nurses, unskilled in the management of the insane, "did what they could," but not what was needed. "I do most earnestly desire the establishment of a State Hospital," said the excellent and benevolent physician—"the insane cannot be fitly treated, either morally or physically, in a poor-house." And again one writes, "the establishment of a State Hospital will be one of the noblest monuments to the humanity of our State, and to the justice and philanthropy of the Legislature who move in it. I hope all hearts and heads will unite in promoting this good and Christian work."

The forty-four cells for the insane in the hospital, are four feet by seven, and twelve high; though something better than those occupied a few years since, and intended to have been much better, they are so amazingly defective that, at the first survey, one is forced to exclaim at the attempt to occupy them at all. They are very small—mere closets; some are not ventilated, some not lighted, and very ill-arranged indeed. Several of the very violently excited patients were in apartments below, which should rarely if ever be used for such purposes. "Chains and hobbles" were in constant use here, and though I know it has been the benevolent design of official per-

sons to improve the condition of the insane poor, by a considerable recent addition to the hospital, it is a lamentable failure; and the error of judgment, apparent in the plan and execution of the work, is much to be regretted. In fine, here, as in most poor-houses, is much expense, accompanied, so far as the insane are considered, by very unsatisfactory results. This is not said in a censorious spirit, but to prove that the true want is not yet supplied.

York County Jail, at *York*, was clean. There is attached, a spacious exercise yard, surrounded, like most of the prison yards throughout the State, with a lofty wall. The usual results of prison companionship were apparent here. I found the prisoners *promiscuously* associated, men and women—some in the yard, others in the apartments; none employed, except, as I think, a female prisoner. There was one insane man who had been, that very day, sentenced for horse-stealing, to the Eastern Penitentiary. Of this man, Dr. Haller, whose name is a voucher for this history, wrote to the warden of the prison, as follows: "Of his insanity, there can be no doubt. I have had him as an insane patient, in our county hospital, nine years since. You may rest fully assured, that there is no disposition, on his part, to play the crazy man. When much excited, he is rather dangerous. Your physician will find him a fair subject of the insane wards of your institution."

York County Alms-house and Hospital, with the contiguous buildings, make a handsome appearance. The farm is one of the best in the county, and contains one hundred and forty-three acres of cultivated land, and two hundred and twenty-one of woodland. The whole establishment can accommodate three hundred. August 3d, 1844, there were one hundred and one men, women and children; of these, there were twenty-five idiotic and insane males and females. There is a school for the children and religious services every Sabbath. Order and good management, were apparent throughout the establishment. As at Lancaster, the apartments were clean, and furnished with excellent beds and bedding. They were also remarkably well ventilated. The buildings are of brick—the main house was erected in 1805; the hospital in 1828. It is two stories high, commodious, with spacious rooms and lofty ceilings. These last are especially important in poor-houses and hospitals, where the apartments often become crowded at the approach of winter; and thus, through want of pure air, much sickness is induced. The cells for the insane, are in the basement of the hospital. They are fourteen by ten, and ten feet high. The windows are grated, three by four and a half. Grating over the doors, three by one and a half feet. The passage is seven feet wide. In winter, warmed by a stove, and pipes conducting near all the cells. The entire length of the hospital is ninety feet. The breadth, forty. Supply of water, ample. Provisions wholesome and sufficient. Comfortable as are the insane here, by comparison with most of this class in poor-houses, though some wear *chains and hobbles*, the physician writes of them as follows:

"They receive all the medical attendance that can possibly be rendered to their situation, but in consequence of the want of sufficient apparatus, and the superintendence of prudent and judicious persons, the recoveries are few; not more than two or three per annum, and those confined to recent cases, where the exciting cause can be plainly understood from those who accompany the patient to the institution. The establishment of a State Asylum would be a matter of economy to all the counties, whether they have poor-houses, hospitals, or not. *It would be the means of restoring thousands of honest poor citizens to their senses*, and their families, who otherwise might have lingered out a horrible existence in filthy cells, or in chains and misery." Such is the opinion of not only the physician of York county-house, but of all intelligent medical men in the State. Estimated number of insane and idiots in York county, about one hundred.

I found the Jail in Adams County in a miserable condition. It is an

old, ill-constructed stone building, a good deal out of repair, and I should think in winter, could hardly be made comfortable. The prisoners sleep upon the floor, on straw beds, and are allowed as many blankets as they need, according to the season. The county allows twenty cents per day for their board, but for the insane twenty-five cents. They have three meals, which are cooked for them; meat usually three times a day. Their washing is done by the family. The students from the Theological Seminary give religious instruction on Sundays, both at the jail and poor-house. I was there in August, and found several prisoners, some about the premises, others in the large exercise yard. Here also was an insane man—or one whose mental faculties had been defective from birth—yet he had been capable of various employments at his father's house, and reached manhood without giving any alarm so serious as to make his removal a prudential measure. He was subject to paroxysms, and often difficult of control. One day, without any apparent motive, he entered the house with an axe, and deliberately approached one of the farming men, who was sitting with his back towards the door, and at one blow split his head open. This shocking murder inspired the family with the utmost apprehension. He was removed to the jail, as dangerous to be at large, about four years since, and there I found him loaded with chains; a ring about the ankle, was connected by a sort of hinge, to a long, stout iron bar, reaching above the hips, and to this the iron wristlets were attached. In the jail, his condition was pitiable; but if at large, neither life nor property would be secure. The only fit place for such, is in a well regulated hospital. The marvel is, that he was not, as *scores of other crazy men have been*, consigned to a State prison. A young girl, very insane, had not been long removed from the jail, where she was loaded with heavy chains, and endured all the exposures and sufferings incident to a situation in all respects so unsuitable. At times she was very violent. Estimated number of insane and idiotic in the county, from forty to fifty.

The County Poor-House *at Gettysburg*, is about a mile from the centre of the town. Early in August I found it not in good repair. There were from ninety to a hundred inmates, chiefly foreigners. The farm contains one hundred and fifty acres, is well stocked and well cultivated. There is an ample supply of water; the health of the family is generally good; the physician attends two or three times weekly, and oftener if necessary. There is a school for the children, and preaching every Sabbath. Bibles, Testaments, and some other books, are liberally supplied. The keeper appeared competent to the performance of his difficult duties; and interested, so far as he had knowledge, in the good condition of the establishment. The hospital is not so well constructed or arranged as the main building. There were eleven crazy and idiotic patients. In the basement are three "crazy rooms," very fitly named, *eight* by *eight, and eight high.* There are also two cells, *four by nine*, and *six* by *nine, in the cellar*. They are unventilated and damp, the floors are wood, and they are lighted by an aperture one and a half by one, and barred with wood. These dens can be partially warmed. The insane are very improperly situated, though two of the females, apart from the rest, were in more comfortable rooms. There was no *wilful* neglect, and no means for promoting cure. *Chains and hobbles used from necessity*, to prevent mischief and straying, as in all the poor houses, with one or two rare exceptions. In well conducted asylums these are never employed; neither such instruments of terrible torture as the ill-devised "restraining," or, as it is greatly miscalled, "*tranquilizing chair.*" I have seen this actually in use only in the Philadelphia Almshouse. They are to be found in the Frankford Asylum, but it is believed and hoped have fallen into deserved disuse and condemnation.

Franklin County Jail is a large brick structure, covering a considerable extent of ground, including both wings and the exercise enclosures. The cost of this prison was thirty thousand dollars. The occupied apart-

ments I found clean and exceedingly well ventilated. The prisoners have no employment, except to cook their own meals and wash their clothes. They receive an allowance of one and a quarter pounds of bread per day, and a pound of meat. There were seven prisoners early in August. As usual, all ages, colours, and degrees of offenders are associated; but the women in this jail, are in a separate portion of the building. Here is no religious instruction; but the sheriff sometimes lends books and newspapers to those who can read. The jail yard is surrounded by a wall about twenty feet high, built of stone. A pump of excellent water affords the means of thorough cleanliness. The cook room is about sixteen feet square. The prisoners sleep, as is common in a majority of the jails, *on the floor*, a custom which, for cleanliness sake, should be speedily done away. Each is furnished with a straw bed and blanket. It is a singular fact that one of these prisoners was born in the county jail. The ill-disposed mother either educated him to vice and misdeeds, or left him exposed to associates, whose example he was quick to imitate. He has but little sensibility to crime or its consequences. Imprisonment has no terrors or hardships for such as he. In jail, he rejoins familiar companions, whose tastes and habits are like his own. Here, supported without labour, and engaged in rehearsing to each other the exploits of which it is their delight to boast; they delineate, in glowing colours, every unruly and desperate enterprise. These, together with games within, or athletic sports in the yard, constitute a life not burdened with trials, and under the feeble restraints of which they qualify themselves anew for evil deeds. In this wise are educated, at the public cost, in county jails, the lawless depredators upon society!

The Franklin County Poor-house, near *Chambersburg*, contains on an average about one hundred paupers. There were eighty the first week in August. There is no school, and no provision made for the instruction of the children. There is preaching every other Sunday. The farm contains one hundred and eighty-eight acres, and is productive. The out-buildings are numerous and commodious. The supply of water, from springs and running streams, is ample and unfailing. Such of the inmates as are able, assist at the farm and household labour; but it was evident that here more competent help was needed, especially within doors. The mistress has altogether too much care. The main building is ninety feet by fifty. It is divided into rooms of good size, pretty well ventilated, clean and in order. All are comfortably furnished, especially with beds and bed-clothing; but this is a creditable distinction of nearly every poor-house in Pennsylvania, including also general cleanliness. A rough-cast building across the yard, of good and convenient size, is appropriated to the coloured people. The hospital, on the opposite side of the main building, is seventy-five feet by thirty-two. The rooms are about nine feet square. The arrangements here are incomplete and not convenient. The only exercise ground for such of the insane as are not allowed to range the premises, is a small yard about thirty-five feet by thirty four, surrounded with a high stone wall. Here is no description of shade or shelter. Nothing worse could be conceived or planned, if the idea of increasing the comfort of these poor creatures was embraced in it.

Beside idiots and epileptics, there were fourteen insane, who require constant care, and under the arrangements which exist here, this is a most arduous task. I found one man chained, for his own safety and that of others, in one of the rooms of the hospital. He was not at that time much excited but liable to furious paroxysms. The history was a sad one, but has many parallels. One insane woman was chained near a fire-place, into which she has a fondness for creeping, and there remains much of the time. There was straw in a box near by, where she could sleep!

Some cells, formerly appropriated for the insane, and in every respect unfit to be occupied, are now chiefly disused. I could not learn with any probable accuracy, the number of insane and epileptics in the county; but

the poor-house contains more than enough of this class of sufferers to afford substantial reasons for providing speedily a more appropriate asylum!

Bedford County Jail at *Bedford*, is a brick building, containing five rooms of good size, which need white-washing; there is a good exercise yard, surrounded by a brick wall twenty feet high, *through* which the prisoners, at some *leisure times*, have once or twice escaped. The law requires the jailer to furnish one pound of bread per day, and as much water as they want; but the present officer gives them three meals per day, and meat at two of them—the family doing the cooking and also the washing. No moral or religious instruction is given at the jail; but the sheriff lends Bibles and books of his own. At the time of my visit there were no prisoners, the last having taken the keys, which were inadvertently hung within their reach, and set themselves at liberty.

Bedford County Poor House has been established less than three years, it has a farm of six hundred and sixty-six acres, only a small part of which is under cultivation. The superintendent's house is built of brick, and is comfortable and commodious. In it is the kitchen and eating-room for the paupers, who live in a house some hundred yards distant. This very inconvenient and bad arrangement ought to be changed without loss of time. The poor house proper, is a rough-cast building, two stories high, sixty-five feet by twenty-eight. It is not well planned, and secures neither separation nor classification. There were thirty-three inmates, one idiotic, some sick, and no person residing in the house to superintend or nurse them. There is no provision for the insane, though one woman had been kept here for a time. The experiment was very unsatisfactory to all parties, and the husband concluded to take home the mother of his children, "and try to get along by managing somehow." Of the insane in the county at large, I could learn but little, and nothing certain in regard to numbers. Probably there are not more than thirty who are insane and idiotic.

The poor-house was not clean, and not well furnished. It is not good economy to purchase second hand furniture for poor-house establishments, even if it was best on other accounts. Much allowance must be made for what is defective in this institution, from the fact of its recent establishment, and the consequent inexperience of those who are concerned in directing and conducting it; time and care may remedy these defects. The house is not visited for imparting religious instruction; no school at present is needed; the medical attendance is good.

Somerset County Jail, at *Somerset*, is an old stone building; I found it clean, and the prisoners decently clothed. Here were three insane men; all were in the exercise-yard; one was heavily chained. One had been in the jail six years, another one year, and the third eleven months. The mother of one had sent him by the stage driver some fruit; this he appeared to care less for than to go to his mother. "I must go, I must go," he continually repeated. "I can't stay, I must go, I must go." In justice to the jailer and his wife, I must say that these insane men were taken care of kindly, and as far as they knew how and had the means, faithfully. The difficult and often hazardous task was not neglected at the expense of the sufferers. But here was no form of treatment to advance recovery and mitigate paroxysms. The jail rooms were all open, affording access to the exercise ground. In one apartment I found a man and woman; they had been tried for adultery, were found guilty, and sentenced to the county jail—one for six months, the other period I do not recollect. What moral benefit was derived by either the prisoners or the community by this, neither separate or solitary confinement, I leave others to determine; but I think that a law prohibiting indiscriminate association of the male and female prisoners cannot be too soon promulgated and enforced.

There is no poor-house in Somerset county, but those who are incapable of self-support are distributed in the towns, amongst those persons who agree to take them at the lowest rate. In some instances, I learned that

they fared well; in many others, neglects and suffering, especially with the aged and helpless, were of frequent occurrence. Humanity and economy unite to recommend the establishment of well-planned and well-regulated poor-houses generally. Except in a densely populous county, county-houses are much to be preferred to town houses.

I learned from the commissioners' office in Somerset, that in 1840, the estimated number of idiots, epileptics, and insane, in this county, was seventy-six. I heard of a good many recent cases, and was told that it was probable the present number was not less than one hundred. After all this is somewhat conjectural. A portion of these are supported by the towns, but the largest part by their friends, and often under circumstances of great trial and affliction. Some are met wandering about the country, owing their subsistence to the charity of those at whose houses they casually stop. The needed meal is cheerfully bestowed, and the torn and tattered garment of the poor wayfarer is often replaced by one that is whole and clean. I am persuaded that no observing person can travel over this state, throughout its length and breadth, and not be inspired with increasing respect for the social virtues of the people. I could detail numerous touching examples which have fallen immediately under my own notice, of a kindly care for the sick and suffering; of poor persons removing from one place to seek, perhaps, a more advantageous situation for work; of wandering, neglected, crazy men and women—the last no uncommon sight—and of little orphan children, received and cherished with a liberal and kind spirit:—not always do the inhabitants give of their abundance, but of their penury they share with those who have less.

Near Stoystown may be found a young woman violently, I fear irrecoverably insane. The case is not of recent origin. The parents are poor—and under most painful circumstances, amidst many difficulties they manage to take care of her at home. For a time, worn out by her violence and destructive propensities, they allowed her to range the county. Often was she exposed, without clothes and pinched with hunger. Those who found her thus, would bestow a garment and give necessary food for that day, but the poor demented creature might be seen the next, unclothed and hungry. At this time the father receives aid from the town; but it is for such cases as this poor girl exemplifies, that hospitals are peculiarly needed. How can a family of children, as in this case, be properly managed, when continually witnessing the vagaries and improprieties of the insane girl; and what is yet worse, of listening to demoralizing language. Many citizens in Somerset county expressed, very earnestly, their desire for the speedy establishment of a state hospital.

Westmoreland County Jail, at *Greensburg*, is built of stone, and is tolerably commodious but very insecure, the safe keeping of the prisoners depending more upon the vigilance of the jailer than the strength of the prison. The rooms were clean, could be well ventilated, and were furnished with cot-bedsteads, clean blankets, and decent benches or chairs. At the time of my visit there were but two prisoners, one, an insane man, very difficult of control, and very dangerous and violent at times. He was altogether unmanageable at home, and public and private safety made it a duty, in default of a hospital, to place him in the jail.

Westmoreland County has no poor-house; the poor are distributed where they can be most cheaply supported. The number of the insane could not be satisfactorily ascertained. I heard of various suffering cases of crazy persons, and of idiots and epileptics, through medical practitioners. I encountered one on my way from Greensburg, who was diligently employed in destroying a hay-stack. There were only females about the house, and as these could not control him, he was necessarily suffered to finish his mischievous work.

I regret that I cannot refer to the Jail of Fayette County, in *Uniontown*, in other than terms of unqualified censure. The building is old, ill-

constructed, and out of repair. This, comparatively, is of little consequence. It was dirty, ill-kept and neglected. A wall, nearly twenty-five feet high, plastered within, surrounded the exercise yard. There were no criminal prisoners: the only occupants of the jail apartments, when I was there in August, were two madmen, in chains; if the rats, of which I heard some intimation, are not included in the category. The men were chained and in separate rooms, or one in a passage, and the other in a room, apart for their mutual safety. I did not see their food, and know nothing of its quantity or quality. I saw no bedstead, nor any furniture. The man in the outer room, or passage, was somewhat cleaner than the other, but I must be excused from entering upon special details; the other was covered with soot, and coal-dust and dirt, and was extended upon the floor, clanking his chains, and beating his head, shouting and singing. Here fell no ray of comfort, hope, or consolation. One of these men is decidedly homicidal, and, with the exception of a short interval, has been, I was informed, in prison fifteen years. On one occasion, becoming violently excited at seeing an intoxicated man put into his room, and possibly provoked by him, for no one knows how it was, he fell upon and murdered him in the most shocking manner. When the keeper came to visit his prisoners, a horrible spectacle presented itself—the murdered drunkard, mangled and lifeless: the madman exulting in the deed and covered with the blood of his victim! He also when at large burned a building.

The other man has been insane about seven years. Both are dangerous, and are subject to paroxysms of fury. Every person must comprehend something of the difficulties of taking care of the insane; but all know, likewise, that humane efforts can spare them much degradation and suffering, even in a prison.

The Poor-House of Fayette County is a mile or two from *Uniontown*. I learned that much improvement had been made in the domestic arrangements within a few years. The superintendent and his family appeared much interested and desirous of performing their duty; but the building is not well planned, and prevents such classification and suitable separation as the comfort of the inmates and propriety require. The house is too small for the number it receives. In August there were seventy-two inmates, and of these rather more than one-eighth were foreigners. The number of men and women were nearly equal; there were but four children, of course no school. Of late no religious services, and rarely visited for the purpose of moral influence. Here were two deaf and dumb, four blind, and an uncommonly large proportion of the inmates of infirm mind, simple, idiotic, and epileptic. Four were violently insane, requiring chains. No suitable apartment in the establishment for these, even allowing the poor-house to be a suitable place. Something should be done at once to enable the superintendent to carry out more properly the objects of the institution. A large, well-ventilated, well-funished building seems imperatively necessary for a hospital for the sick and the most infirm of the old people. At all events, such additions should be made that it may not be regarded as necessary to place numbers of aged, sick men and women together in confined, crowded lodging-rooms! Considering all the difficulties of managing such an establishment, the wonder is that it appeared so well, and this could have been only through a very diligent care on the part of the mistress of the house.

Greene County Jail, at *Waynesburg*, is constructed of stone and is very strongly built; it is small, but larger than the wants of the county make necessary. It is entirely unenclosed, the doors were all open, there were no prisoners, and I made my way towards it through a rank growth of stramonium and tall weeds, which sufficiently indicated the infrequent use of the building. The path was quite obliterated.

In this county is no poor-house—the poor are placed with those who will take them at the lowest cost. The ascertained number of idiots, epileptics, and insane in the county, is from fifty-five to sixty, of which the largest

part are idiots and imbeciles. Two cases of cruel abuse of an insane man and an epileptic youth were related to me by a practising physician. Some time since, an insane man was committed to the jail on a criminal charge. Another is often made intoxicated at the taverns, to afford sport to the idle and vicious. Another still, who had been insane six years, the physician assured me he believed would have been perfectly cured if he could have had the benefit of hospital treatment. And so it is, that for the want of a liberal, well-conducted institution, every year increases the class of incurables, and deprives the state of useful citizens, and families of comfort and the means of support.

Washington County Jail, at *Washington*, is a large stone building, enclosed by a high stone wall, including an exercise yard, in which I found congregated the old and the young, black and white, men and women and babies. And besides these, charged with petty and with criminal offences, an insane man, whose fate it was to be associated with thieves and felons, "for he was crazy and not safe to be at large." He had property, the interest of which paid his expenses here, but was insufficient to meet hospital charges. The construction of this jail is not such as to permit much classification. The sheriff appeared quite sensible of the disadvantages to which the place was subject, and said "that having but one exercise-ground, of course they must all be together, in the cells and out, till lock up hours." The grand jury, in 1842, called public attention to this subject, representing "the propriety of so remodelling the jail-yard and the jail, that the female prisoners may be kept entirely separate from the males." This, which was meeting but half the evil, was again adverted to in 1843, but it was added, that "having visited the jail they found the prisoners well-cared for, and the rooms furnished with Bibles, in accordance with recommendation." We fear the Bibles have been studied to little profit while so many adverse circumstances were allowed to warp the mind, and tempt to misconduct. The last presentation of the jury on this abuse, was in August, 1844, and still nothing was said upon the subject of classification and employment. I found the jail cleanly swept and aired, and some of the rooms very clean. The prisoners were amusing themselves with games, talking, story telling and such like modes of passing time and cultivating the morals.

The County Alms-house is several miles from Washington. It is a large brick building, founded about twelve years since. Attached is a valuable farm, of nearly one hundred and seventy-five acres. This, I understand, was managed to the entire satisfaction of the county officers. The house is not planned conveniently for the classification of the occupants. A thorough cleansing was in progress, and such of the inmates as were able were variously and industriously employed. There were seventy paupers, eight of which were children. *Seven* were insane. A considerable number idiotic, and others epileptic and imbecile. There is no school, and preaching is heard about once a month. The physician is rarely called; it having been decided that "except in violent cases," the master of the house, who is an excellent farmer and blacksmith, should add to his various duties and professions, that of medical practitioner, There were four insane females in close confinement in August. One in a small building, remote from the house, in a field. She was placed there on account of being "exceedingly noisy, screaming and shouting, so that nobody could rest!" A lame man, who I understood to be her husband, had it in charge to take her food to her. The room she was in was clean; she was also cleanly and comfortably dressed, and at this time, also quiet. In a large yard, common to all the inmates of the establishment, was a small building, consisting of a single room, perhaps twelve by fourteen feet. I did not measure it. At one end was a door. At the opposite, a sashed window, containing twelve panes of glass, I think. On one side, were two windows of the same size. It being a hot day, two were opened, fronting the most frequented part of the house and yard. I looked in, as requested, and saw first a young wo-

man apparently demented, standing upon a sack of straw. At first I thought there was no other occupant; but a little to the right, somewhat concealed from view, as I was at first placed, I discovered a woman of middle age, seated on some straw in a packing-box—and in a state of entire nudity. On the opposite side of the room stood a similar box, which at first I supposed to be empty, but the sound of voices roused a female. She lay coiled up. I cannot imagine how she could have contracted herself into so small a space. Some straw, too, was in this box, and excepting that, she had neither clothing nor covering of any sort or description. Nor was there any in the room of any kind. Wholly unconscious of exposure, these shamefully neglected maniacs roved about the room, seeming to shrink, yet too much lost to comprehend into what bitter degradation they had fallen, and to what insensible guardians they were consigned. The boxes, into which now and then they leaped, cowering down amidst the straw, were such as are seen at almost every door of an English goods store. They were of rough board, about three feet long, by two and a half wide and deep. And this was here, here in Washington county, where, in 1839, it was officially announced, "that the insane of this county *are so well provided for*, that a strte hospital would be useless;" and further, "the county has it in contemplation to fit up a building, already erected, for the crazy poor." The building has been fitted up it appears, and furnished, but exactly how long occupied I considered it of little use to ascertain; but was told in general terms, that the unfortunate women referred to, had been in no better condition for several years.

That the intolerable grossness and barbarity of this personal exposure was neither transient nor accidental, I am assured by the concession of persons on the premises, and by gentlemen who had visited the poor-house by chance before I came to Washington. I am sorry to employ strong expressions; I am sorry to censure any persons; but for this monstrous outrage on decency and morals, I can find neither palliation nor apology. What shall we say? Here are boxes three feet long, indeed—a handful of straw thrown in. This the retreat, this the bed, without covering of any kind; not even the fragment of a rag, or a torn blanket, or the very refuse of cast-off pauper garments to gather about the shrinking form—the windows not shaded even, from the view of seventy or a hundred men, women and children, passing and repassing the room continually. Visitors coming and going; overseers of the poor making official visits; religious teachers at intervals; yet no one making it his or her business to bring about a less intolerable state of things. But one must turn from this subject—rather let those ponder on it, on whom depends the establishment of an institution that shall spare such scenes, and rescue from such barbarisms. I have but to add, that the week following my visit, the grand jury made presentment to the court, then in session, that these facts, communicated to that official body, were true: "And that we will not urge further reasons than the facts referred to, as in their opinion, they are sufficient to induce every person to come to the same opinion;" "and they do most earnestly recommend," &c. &c. I have not learned if the representations and recommendations made last August, have taken practical effect; nor have I used any pains to learn the numbers or condition of the insane in the county at large. If the directors of the county-house can have neither desired or executed more salutary plans for the physical and mental treatment of the insane, than those I witnessed, after *twelve* years' trial, I cannot suppose so rapid progress has been made as to render future hospital-care unneeded, or the public interference and protection uncalled for, or untimely.

Allegheny County Jail, at *Pittsburg*, is a handsome and costly structure, built of stone, and stands immediately adjacent to and connected with the court-house. Brought into such proximity to the *halls of justice* it was but reasonable to look for corresponding advantages.

This jail combines all the faults and abuses of the worst county prisons

in this state or in the United States. Hoping to find something redeeming in its earlier discipline and government, I deliberately and patiently entered upon investigation, but the nature of the revelations these inquiries brought to light obliged me to relinquish the work to those whose more immediate duty it is to bring about a reformation. The prison was built in view of the separate imprisonment, classification and employment of offenders; instead of which, I found transgressors of all ages, colours, sexes and degrees, promiscuously associated: little boys listening greedily to gray-headed, time and crime-hardened convicts; the youthful transgressor learning new lessons of iniquity, from those whose vices only kept pace with their crimes; here the sick were unattended, the ignorant untaught, the repentant (if any) unencouraged, and the insane forgotten. The area, stairs, and passages were unscrubbed and unswept; the cells and beds yet worse, uncleansed; and some of them perfectly intolerable through foul air and negligence. If it had been the deliberate purpose of the citizens of Allegheny County to establish a school for the inculcation of vice and the obliteration of every virtue, I cannot conceive that any means they could have devised, would more certainly have secured these results than those I found in full operation in the jail last August. On my second visit, things wore a little better outward aspect, so far as the use of the broom, some clean blankets, and somewhat more decently arranged apparel, were considered. This, the work of an hour, was to last but a day; the visit was prepared for. The ample leisure of the prisoners afforded opportunity for various little works of skill and ingenuity for facilitating oral communication, when by night all, or by day a part, should be locked into the cells. The pastime particularly referred to, was cutting the doors in pieces, or rather cutting such apertures through them, as in default of clairvoyance assisted vision and promoted a social feeling, by increasing facilities for conversation. I was somewhat struck with the remark of one of the prisoners, a forger, and a man of some education, though he had failed in the use of its advantages—"a man who comes here will lose all respect for the law, and for those who administer it; and all respect for the officers and those who appoint them; and he will go out indifferent to every restraint, and it is a chance if he does not believe himself as good as those who are instrumental in bringing him here." "You may learn here," said another, "every thing that people outside call bad; and you may look long enough for the good, and not find it at last." At one time, there had been religious teaching by preaching on the Sabbath; but a very respectable pious clergyman told me he had relinquished the work from the conviction, that where evil conduct, through the want of a good discipline so prevailed, it was wholly unavailing to offer occasional instruction. Dauphin County Jail affords a model upon which the Allegheny County Prison can be reformed and remodelled. I know, some of the most intelligent of the citizens of Pittsburg, are earnest to carry out a change, which, if it be not fruitful of great good, shall at least not permit such an increase of positive evil. Attention once directed to these monstrous abuses, reformation will be certain to follow in Allegheny County Jail.

It is a relief to turn from this to other public institutions of Pittsburg: the Orphans' Asylum situated in Allegheny city, is a charity which rescues many unprotected children from early crime, and saves some from the jail. This institution, so creditable to those who support it, and to the good matron who directs it, is well ordered throughout.

The Poor-house of Pittsburg, soon to be replaced by a more commodious establishment, is also in Allegheny city. I found it comfortably arranged, and neat. The two insane, of the fifteen inmates, were kindly looked after. The entire number of epileptics, insane and idiotic in this county, was computed to be not less than seventy-five and might be more.

Allegheny County has no poor-house, but the poor in most of the townships are distributed as is customary in other counties.

Of the Western Penitentiary, I shall speak elsewhere; but I cannot refrain from saying here, that it is one of the most excellently governed prisons I have ever visited. I took sufficient time to see all the prisoners, and to learn the whole state of the institution. It is honourable to the county and state, and creditable to the warden, Major Beckham, to whose judgment and fidelity, its prosperity is mainly to be ascribed. The moral instructor is greatly interested in his work and diligent in the discharge of his duties. Here, as is universal in the state prisons, are found the insane and imbecile. Some were so when committed, and in others the disease has been developed in prison. They are kindly treated, so far as a prison affords such influences for that class of prisoners; but these never should be left in a prison, much less sent there while labouring under this malady, as I have proved beyond doubt has been the case in many instances.

It is to be hoped that the jurisprudence of insanity will receive more effectual and serious consideration than it has hitherto done in this, and the United States generally; excepting latterly in New York, more lately still in Massachusetts, and earlier than either in Louisiana.

Beaver County Jail, at *Beaver*, is built of stone, and has four rooms, two above and two below; there is a small yard protected by a wall twenty feet high. The rooms are about eighteen feet by eighteen, and nine feet high. The prison is out of repair, insecure, and inconvenient. The prisoners were all together; a child, the middle-aged, and the man of gray hairs. The boy had been committed on a charge of petty larceny, and probably was guilty. When he is enlarged, he will no doubt come upon the community accomplished in the knowledge of vice and crime. Society gives him this education *at the free school of the county*, and in acknowledgment of the obligation he will undoubtedly practice what it has taught. The offender against social and civil law, once committed to a jail, and forced upon the society of other offenders, imbibes a taste for more grave transgressions than he has heretofore contemplated. Here are no restraints that check the influence of "corrupt communications;" here is no employment either for the hands or the mind, helping to strengthen better habits and confirm better resolutions; here is no moral or religious teacher kindly and seriously impressing "line upon line, precept upon precept;" here is no partition, separating the hardy and mature criminal from him who has but newly yielded to temptation; here, in short, society seems deliberately to abandon its victim, giving him over to every evil work. I believe no better work can be done in our country than those may accomplish who undertake the establishment of a new and more just jail system. I am not aware that there are above six disciplined *jails* in the United States; and I do know that most of them have trained many a convict for the penitentiaries. Whether is it better to prevent disease, or leave it to be not only sure in its attacks, but deadly in its consequences?

Beaver County has no poor-house. The poor are supported by the several towns, in families where they can be boarded at the lowest cost. Many sad accounts of the neglects and privations to which this system gives rise, reached me from undoubted sources. Many of the more reflecting and benevolent citizens in Beaver county, are earnest to bring about an effectual change, by establishing a county-house. The question has been discussed for some time, but in August no results had been reached of a definite character.

The intelligent medical men are all in favour of it; this follows of course, as their profession makes them acquainted with injuries and aggressions, which often fail to reach the ear of those whose duty it would be to prevent their repetition. A carefully planned, well-managed county poor-house produces great benefits; while the want of one often greatly aggravates the misfortunes and miseries of the poor and infirm.

Butler County Jail, at *Butler*, is old and out of repair, but well-ordered. The rooms were decently furnished; the prisoners decently clean, but

all associated, and without employment. Here was one insane man, who was often violent and dangerous.

Butler County has no poor-house. The poor are supported as in Beaver: distributed at the lowest rates. I heard of several cases of epileptics and insane, through a medical practitioner; but could not learn with any probable correctness, the whole number in the county.

Mercer County Jail is in *Mercer*. It is a well-built structure of stone, said to be well kept at present. Here was an insane man, who had been a long time in confinement and chained. "At times he is dreadful noisy, and a sight of trouble," said my informant, "but we manage to get on pretty smoothly sometimes."

Mercer County has no poor-house. So far as I could ascertain, there are from thirty to forty idiots and insane. This is probably less than the actual number. "Some of these wretches suffer horribly, but who is to help it?" was the expression of a tax-paying citizen, who gave me some information respecting these and the other poor. "We need a poor-house, and a place for the unruly crazy ones, and the mischievous idiots. They don't often get care fit for the brutes, unless they chance to have some humane relation."

Crawford County Jail, at *Meadville*, is very strongly built of timber, and though exteriorly not wearing a very finished aspect, was within, in a creditable condition; being clean and decent. The food is good, well prepared, and more than sufficient, and supplied from the table of the family who keep the prison. Here were two prisoners, a woman in a room by herself, and an insane man, whose variable and often violent state, made it dangerous to allow him liberty, unless, as at hospitals, he could be attended by some person understanding how to manage him. He was kept clean, though quite as difficult a case as that of the insane men in Fayette County Jail.

In Crawford County is no poor-house. The number of paupers is small. I heard of several painful cases of idiocy and epilepsy. The case of an idiot boy was described as claiming commiseration. He was often neglected and abused, pursued and tormented by idle boys, and had more than once suffered personal injury. But such events are of frequent occurrence in many places. The vagrant, insane and idiots are oftener teazed by the thoughtless and vicious, than sympathized with. It is but a few weeks since, an insane man, driven to frenzy by his street tormentors, threw a stone at random, which killed a child.

Erie County Jail, at *Erie*, is an ill-planned brick building, containing a number of cell-rooms, floored with stone. The exercise-yard is of sufficient size, and surrounded by a lofty brick wall; over which, however, the prisoners when not watched, contrive by mutual aid to effect escapes. The prison contained, in September, nine prisoners, in a dirty, disorderly condition, all together, and entirely disgusting. The beds, walls, floors, windows, passages, one and the whole, appeared capable of being thoroughly purified only by the element of fire. The air was intolerably bad. Notwithstanding the hot weather, a large fire was burning in a stove, as they said, "to dry up the damp." This was well enough, provided the doors and windows had been thrown wide, but closed as they were, it made what was bad yet worse. It is seldom one will find a more discreditable prison. The sick were neglected, and all left to their own devices. Here was no moral or religious instruction—no employment—no books—only uncontrolled pernicious intercourse. One of the prisoners was said to be insane—it was a more than doubtful case. It is hoped some wholesome reforms have changed the jail in Erie before this time.

Erie County Poor-house, a few miles out of town, is not well situated, nor planned to secure the classification of the inmates; but considering the many difficulties always to be overcome in new establishments, and which experience only can effectually meet, so far as the superintendent may be

considered responsible, the house is well directed, but the cares are very arduous, and the rooms too much crowded. The buildings are not large enough for the numbers to be received, and there are no suitable apartments for the sick. I do not doubt these deficiencies will be remedied. A small wooden building in the yard, is divided into six cells for the insane, each measuring nearly five feet by nine, and about eight high. In some was a quantity of straw, and I think, bunks. They were very imperfectly lighted, not ventilated, and I cannot think that they can be either safely or sufficiently warmed in winter. It is to be hoped it will not be found necessary to occupy these poor cells; I am sure they are quite unfit for any permanent use. There were forty-eight poor in this establishment in September, ten of which were children. Here were five insane, four epileptics and four idiots, several of them wholly incapable of self-care, not being able even to feed themselves. Estimated number of insane in the county, about forty. Here is no school for the children, and religious instruction as opportunity permitted. Benevolent persons, who have leisure, will find a field for usefulness at the Erie poor-house. The burthensome cares of the superintendents, must make attention to instructing the children impossible.

Warren County Jail, at *Warren*, is built of stone, is clean, and in thorough repair—it is creditable to those who have charge of it. There was no prisoner in September, but I understand that an insane woman has since been committed for safe-keeping. Provisions are supplied from the table of the keeper, when there are prisoners. The exercise yard is securely enclosed.

Warren County has no poor-house, and not many poor entirely dependent on the public care; yet these sometimes are subject to neglect in sickness, and a sad sense of homelessness, as, year by year, they are transferred from place to place, received on such terms as at the very outset almost assures much discomfort and privation. I heard of not many insane in this county. One female leads a life of exposure, often escaping from those who have taken the responsibility of caring for her. For weeks she frequents a desolate, deserted log house on the mountain, and when urged by the cravings of hunger, wanders to some farm house, where her appetite is appeased, and then disappears, returning only when driven by the same necessity. "She suffers a sight in this way," said my informant; "people hate to have her live so, but some are afraid of her, and some don't care."

Venango County Jail, at *Franklin*, is constructed of stone, and large enough for county purposes, and ill-contrived enough to include every inconvenience in occupying it. There were no prisoners in September. The rooms had been swept the day I was there; they needed repairs and whitewashing, and if ever used some decent description of straw-beds and blankets; the remnants of what time and service had destroyed, were scattered about. It was expected that a man in a state of violent insanity, would be sent there in a day or two for safe-keeping. It was not easy to conceive that he would be comfortable, especially if not easily managed. An insane person in the vicinity, lately committed suicide. It was thought, if the patient could have had early remedial treatment, a cure would have followed. I heard of several interesting cases, through the physicians, whose practice often brings them acquainted with those maladies, and who hold but one opinion respecting the insane—the great importance of placing them in hospitals.

Franklin County has no poor-house; the poor are placed out at the lowest rates, in families who are willing to receive them for a trifling compensation. This county has but few paupers.

Clarion County Jail, at *Clarion*, is a large new building, not well planned or securely constructed. There was, in September, but one prisoner, and he was under sentence to the Western Penitentiary, for a second offence of petty larceny. The keeper here, understood remarkably, the du-

ties of his office, and one could not but wish that his abilities might have a wider sphere of action. In short, that he might have the conduct of some one of the ill-ordered prisons which have been referred to.

In Clarion County is no poor-house, but few paupers, and few insane.

Jefferson County Jail, at *Brookville*, is poorly built of stone, and on an inconvenient plan. There were two prisoners in September, charged with murder in the first degree, of which they were found guilty, but the Sheriff held them in such regard that they frequently, if not always, took their meals at his own table. It was allowed to be "a misfortune they had come to, but he thought a heap of them." There is no poor-house in this county, and but few paupers and few insane. These, so far as I could learn, were kindly cared for.

Armstrong County Jail, at *Kittanning*, is not in a very good condition. I saw there, four prisoners in September. One insane, comfortable in apparel and general condition. Food for the prisoners was sufficient, and of good quality.

There is no poor-house in this county, and but few paupers, idiots, and insane.

Indiana County Jail, at *Indiana*, is built of stone, is inconvenient and ill-finished. There were no prisoners in September. It was clean, and, when occupied, well attended to, so far as the food and clothing of the prisoners was concerned. Here is no county poor-house. The paupers, of all conditions, are "placed out to those who bid for them lowest." There are thirty ascertained cases of insanity and idiocy. These receive no special medical care or supervision. Several are capable of being employed, but those who have charge of them are unskilful in directing their labour according to their strength and ability. A case was lately related to me by a medical man, of an insane person who had been very highly excited, and was chained and kept in a cell. After a time, the paroxysm subsided, but the rigid confinement, want of air, and a constrained position, had essentially weakened the muscular fibre. In short, he was pale, emaciated, and feeble, but eager to be let out. The keeper promised this, if he would work; and, eager for enlargement, he readily promised to do so. He was accordingly removed from the cell, and directed to load a team with stone. He went to work with alacrity, but soon was exhausted, and asked to rest. This was refused, and the command of "work, or back to your cell," proved a sufficient incentive and terror, to urge him to the utmost through the day. One day more in feebleness, and with blistered and lacerated hands, he pursued the unequal task, then his strength altogether failed, and to the cell he was remanded—the master saying to him, he "was lazy and must pay for it." After this, the patient's faculties rapidly gave way, and he who might, with judicious care and prudent direction, have recovered reason and ability for a life of useful labour, is now a confirmed idiot. Employment is highly important and useful for the insane; but it is not less important that this should be assigned with judgment, proportioning the task to the physical strength and mental capacity. I was told in a county poor-house, that they did not wish to have their "crazy people carried to a hospital, for they were useful in performing for infirm and disabled persons, offices that were particularly disagreeable, and which the sane paupers could not be made to do. We can cure them well enough ourselves, if they will get well, and we need their labour."

Cambria County Jail, at *Ebensburg*, is a miserable building, insecure, and not clean or comfortable as I saw it, so far as necessary furnishing and convenient arrangements were considered. One room was occupied by those notorious murderers, the Flanagans, and I confess I could not see much to impede their escape whenever it should please them to go. An insane man occupied a room adjacent to, and in rear of theirs, affording another example of the want of a suitable asylum. I do not doubt that, under fit direction, he is fully able to earn his own support.

This county has no poor house—the poor are "let out" to those who are willing to accept a trifling compensation for their board. I heard of several cases of much suffering and neglect of the insane. One man, some miles from Ebensburg, it was stated, was "shut up in a very small room, rarely made clean, badly fed, and miserable beyond what one would easily credit, who is not accustomed to scenes of suffering.

Huntingdon County Jail, at *Huntingdon*, needed white-wash, scrubbing, and, above all, ventilation. There were two prisoners who occupied the same room, without employment and without moral influences. One was said to be insane; I had reason to doubt this; there might have been a degree of eccentricity, united with moral perversion, but the case was by no means clear.

Huntingdon County has no poor-house; but the poor are boarded with those who name the lowest receivable price. From the best information received, the idiots, epileptics, and insane, in this county, may be estimated at about sixty. The desire for a State Hospital was strongly expressed by intelligent citizens.

I seldom refer to cases existing in private families, and never by name; but there is one in Huntingdon county, so well known, and so publicly exposed, that I feel a description of his condition, as given to me by a citizen, will be in place here, and serve to illustrate the fact that there are terrible sufferings, and miseries which call for speedy relief. On the banks of the canal, near the Juniata, stands a farm-house, to which the cooks of the canal boats are accustomed to resort for supplies of milk, butter, &c. Immediately adjacent to the house is a small shanty, constructed of boards placed obliquely against each other. In this wretched hovel is a man, whose blanched hair indicates advancing years; not clad sufficiently for the purposes of decency; "fed like the hogs, and living worse; in filth, and not half covered: the decaying wet straw upon the ground, only increases the offensiveness of the place." In the rains of summer, and the frosts of winter, he is alike exposed to the influence of the elements. There is no fire, of course. There is no room for such a luxury as a fireplace or stove! And there you may see him now, affording a spectacle so miserable and revolting, that you are thankful to retreat from a scene you have no authority to amend. It is but a few days since nineteen cases, from sources of unquestionable authority, have been communicated to me; some accompanied with solicitations to interpose in behalf of these poor maniacs, whose sufferings almost transcend belief. These are in private families, chiefly of humble circumstances; and most of all, those who are connected with them, utterly perplexed by the trials of their lot, and ignorant how, or in what manner, to manage the refractory and violent mad-men. These all need care and protection in a Lunatic Asylum. They cannot elsewhere be brought into decent conditions, or rendered in any sort as comfortable as the lowest of the brute creation.

Mifflin County Jail, at *Lewistown*, was ill-arranged; dirty beds on a dirty floor, walls needing white-wash, the rooms, the admission of pure air; and the prisoners, of which there were several, the free application of soap and water.

This county has no poor-house. The poor are distributed as cheapness and convenience may determine. For the insane, idiots, and epileptics, there is no appropriate provision—they have no medical attendance, and I heard of no recoveries amongst the poor. Many I did not see—those who described them, concurred in the opinion that "something was needed for their help, and they thought well of a State Hospital."

Juniata County Jail, at *Mifflintown*, contained no prisoners; most of the rooms were occupied as a saddlery, being converted, "until further demand for the county," into work-shops and store-rooms. Not long since an insane woman was shut up here. She was subject to the most furious and alarming bursts of passion, and the jailer's wife declared it her belief that she

"was more ugly than crazy," but other testimony, from competent judges, settled the fact of her insanity, and of the danger of her being at large. At this time (September) she was wandering somewhere over the country, having escaped from the restraints of the prison. From the best information I could collect, one may estimate the number of idiots and insane in Juniata county at about thirty-five—most of them are incapable of employment. There is no poor-house in this county; the poor are distributed according to the prevailing usage where there is no county institution.

Centre County Jail, at *Bellefonte*, contained no prisoners in September. That portion of the building which was occupied by the sheriff's family, was in complete order, and well arranged. The jail rooms were much out of repair, and in all respects unfit for use till cleansed in every part. The condition was exceedingly discreditable to whoever had charge to maintain the place in decent order. One room was converted into a pigeon-house, and seemed also to be shared with the rats. Fortunately the county has little use for the jail, and this is yet more fortunate for prisoners. I regret to add, that since I was at Bellefonte, I am informed a young man, recently become insane, is incarcerated and chained in this prison, which I am sure, could afford no apartment tolerably decent for any living creature. Cases daily are related to me, which seem even more strongly than most I have recorded, to urge the establishment of a Lunatic Asylum and Hospital.

Centre County has no poor-house. Some details of suffering reached me. The number of insane poor is computed at forty, including the idiotic cases. I understand many indigent families receive liberal aid from the more prosperous citizens, especially near Bellefonte—but much doubt was expressed respecting the general condition of the aged poor and sick through the county at large.

Clearfield County Jail, at *Clearfield*, is remarkably well built, in complete order, and had no prisoners at the season of my visit.

In this county is no poor-house, and but few paupers. So far as ascertained, the idiots and insane are fourteen, these are chiefly with their friends —they have no special attendance. I could hear of no recoveries; the physicians related a number of cases where at one time they tried to induce the friends to adopt a remedial treatment; but, at home, they could not carry this out, or thought they could not, and the patients are now considered past cure.

Elk County, at present, has no jail, no poor-house, and but few paupers; could learn nothing of the insane—doubt if there are any.

Clinton County Jail, at *Lock Haven*, is a small building in temporary use for detaining prisoners. The two rooms are in decent order.

In this county, is no poor-house, and not many paupers. Several cases of idiocy and insanity. A physician remarked that every year increased the number of incurables, "through want of seasonable and necessary care."

Lycoming County Jail, at *Williamsport*, is constructed of stone, is well built, and in good order. In this county is no poor house. The estimated number of insane is about seventy. The paupers are set off yearly to those 'who bid cheapest." Some are well dealt by, and others suffer great hardships."

Tioga County Jail, at *Wellsborough*, is substantially built, in rear of and beneath the court rooms. The rooms are inconveniently constructed, being more suited for the secure detention of offenders, than most county prisons, but ill-devised in many respects. Here is no enclosed exercise yard, and, but for special care on the part of the jailer, prisoners subject to long detention, would, from dampness of the cells, suffer in health.

Tioga County has no poor-house; but few paupers, few idiots, and few insane. I saw but two of the latter class, who were subjects for hospital care.

Bradford County Jail, at *Towanda*, is an old inconvenient building, gone much out of repair. Here were three prisoners in October. My visit

was made in the morning before breakfast. I found the prisoners, who had already arranged the apartment, and were themselves clean and neat, reading and talking in a quiet manner. I understood that the food was well supplied, three times a day, from the kitchen of the keeper. Insane persons have been kept in the jail—there are none at present.

In this county is no poor-house, the old system is still followed for supporting the poor—"Let out at the lowest rates." The estimated number of insane and idiots is nearly twenty; there is no provision for these adapted to their necessities.

One insane female wanders constantly from Troy, in Bradford county, to Elmira, in New York, and south returning to Williamsport. When her garments fail, she shows the ragged gown, and another is given by some kind-hearted person. She asks food only when hunger compels her to enter the way-side dwelling; and is supposed to lodge sometimes in the woods, sometimes in out-buildings. She is harmless and silent.

Columbia County Jail, at *Danville*, had but one prisoner early in October. The jail rooms were in order. In this county is no poor-house. The present mode of disposing of those who become a public cost, is the same as in all the northern and most of the interior counties. Physicians informed me that the insane suffered much for want of suitable care.

Union County Jail, at *New Berlin*, was vacant of prisoners. It is well built, was clean and suitably arranged. In this county is no poor-house. The poor are supported as in Columbia County. The cost of supporting each individual was variously estimated at from forty to sixty dollars per annum. Of the insane, a considerable number are under the care of relatives. Their condition varies according to the forms the disease manifests, and the dispositions and ability of those who have them in charge. A physician acquainted me at New Berlin, that within the limits of his own practice, there are now six insane persons, proper subjects for an insane hospital, and he writes "to give you some data, I inform you, that besides myself, there are fifteen practitioners of medicine in the county; all of whom traverse a considerable territory. *We feel the want of a hospital constantly.*" I heard of about thirty cases of idiotic and demented persons in Union County, but this cannot embrace all of the class, though it may exceed the number strictly needing remedial treatment.

Luzerne County Jail, at *Wilkesbarre*, the last week of October, contained two men and two women prisoners. There are four jail rooms, two above and two below. Those on the first floor are arched. All require whitewash, and are insufficiently ventilated. The building is of stone, and the exercise yard enclosed by a high wall. The construction of the prison is such as to subvert discipline. The men and women, at this time, were in separate parts of the building, but could converse at will. The poor of this county are supported in the several townships, in those families who take them on terms most favourable to the public interest. The highest estimate of the insane and idiots, of which the latter is most numerous, is forty-six.

Wyoming County Jail, at *Tunkhannock*, is solidly constructed, and it was designed not only to be well built, but upon a good plan. Great mistakes have been made, and if it continues to be occupied it will be found absolutely necessary to make some alterations for the increased admission of light and air. The cells or dungeons are almost in total darkness. Of these, there are two, about seven feet high, and nearly ten by fifteen. The interior wall is eighteen inches thick. A small aperture in the door, seven by nine inches, admits so much light and air as can thus find entrance. The grates in the outer wall are nearly two feet by two. The entrance door which communicates with the kitchen has a small aperture opening from the area, and at this I found the two prisoners, amusing themselves with a member of the family. The supply of food is ample, and it must be owned that the prisoners appeared in high health. But then they were not locked into the dungeons.

In this county is no poor-house, and but few who are wholly dependent on the public for their support. I heard of but two insane.

Susquehanna County Jail, at *Montrose*, is not a very good building. It was tolerably clean, and the food of the prisoners wholesome and sufficient. There were but two prisoners the last of October; one a boy, who was imprisoned for assault. He was passionate, and had been irritated unreasonably, as he believed. He certainly needed some moral influence here, some instruction which should help him in future to rule his temper.

In this county is no poor house. The estimated number of the insane is about thirty-five; some of these are supported by their friends, others at the public cost, at the lowest prices. I heard of several very painful examples of severe usage. One man who, from no brutal impulse, but conviction that it was "the only way to tranquilize crazy people," most severely beat his own wife—whose violent conduct and language created the utmost domestic confusion. We need a State Hospital surely, for such as these.

Wayne County Jail, is at *Honesdale;* it is well built of stone, and contains four centre cells. These cell rooms are strongly finished, but defectively ventilated, and are not altogether convenient. The prisoners are well fed. There was but one in October. I heard of but few insane in the county. There are no poor-houses, but the poor are distributed through their respective townships.

Pike County Jail, at *Milford*, is out of repair, and not very well constructed. The prisoners were supplied liberally at their meals, when there were any in detention. I found the prison vacant. There is no poor-house in this county, but the poor are supported as in Wayne. The ascertained number of insane is small.

Monroe County Jail, at *Stroudsburg*, was out of repair. There was but one prisoner, and he seemed imbecile; they called him "foolish," where he was known. In this county the poor are supported in the several townships, as in Wayne and Pike. I heard from a physician of extensive practice that there were several cases of insanity requiring remedial treatment.

Carbon County Jail, at *Mauch Chunk*, was entirely unoccupied the last of October. It is not conveniently constructed in any respect, but I understand that hitherto there has not been much occasion to use the prison-rooms.

In this county is no poor-house but many poor persons. The benevolent inhabitants use much exertion to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and helpless. I heard of several cases of insanity and idiocy in the county, but could not ascertain that these were in particularly suffering conditions, though some were negligently exposed.

Northampton County Jail, at *Easton*, was vacant of prisoners the first week in November. The apartments are clean though the prison is not constructed upon a good plan. At present I have understood, it is well kept; though being subject to the same system as nearly all the jails in the state it is liable to like abuses and immoralities.

The County Poor-house, near *Nazareth*, and the numerous buildings connected with it, are in a condition highly creditable to the town and the state; so indeed, with the rarest exceptions, are all the Pennsylvania German poor-house establishments: well-built and liberally supported.

The main-building at Nazareth, consists of a large stone-house, forty feet by ninety, and three stories high with the basement. Adjacent to this, is a hospital for the sick and the insane, constructed with brick, thirty feet by eighty, and also three stories high, including a thoroughly finished basement. There are various out-buildings, work-shops, farm-buildings, as barns, sheds, &c. The farm contains two hundred and fifty-five acres, all cleared except about five. The land is productive, and the whole well-managed, and under good cultivation. Early in November, I found here one hundred and thirty-seven paupers—eighty-one males and fifty-six females; of these thirty-five were children under fourteen years of age, and sixteen were insane.

The master and mistress of this establishment, deserve high praise for their vigilance and discreet management. Such of the inmates as were able, were employed according to the measure of their strength and capacity.

A number of the idiotic and insane were in the main building, others occupied rooms in a large wooden house, partly used for workshops, on the lower side of the court-yard: others again, were on the first floor of the hospital; and the violent and ungovernable were in very comfortable, well finished rooms, of sufficient size, in the basement. To these were attached small exercise yards, enclosed by a high brick wall. The deficiency was found in the want of skilful nurses, acquainted with the care of the insane. As a receptacle, this affords comforts not often found in connection with an alms-house, but it cannot be made a curative establishment: neither those medical nor moral influences can be brought together here, which the wants that are peculiar to insanity demand.

One defect may be remarked of this, as of all the hospital establishments connected with the alms-houses, and many of which have been built almost without regard to cost as this; that at Reading, Berks county, and those at York and Lancaster. It is in constructing the apartments for the sick and infirm, and those for the insane, in such proximity as almost to insure the disturbance of those who most require quiet and repose. There are times when this does not seem to be a serious evil, but one can have no assurance that these seasons of calm may not be followed by long and distressing disturbances: cries and shrieks, which banish sleep and distract the mind enfeebled by illness.

The arguments are very strong and conclusive, which advocate the separation of insane patients from the poor houses. They are fitly established only in asylums solely appropriated to their use, adapted to their wants, and directed by persons whose only business is to guide and govern the affairs of the institution.

One cannot but respect the motives which have prompted the county hospital provision for the insane; and not the less, that it is not all which the good of the patients require. A State Hospital is needed to supply what these cannot procure—a more complete remedial treatment.

Lehigh County Jail, at *Allentown*, is a large stone building, containing numerous rooms, but none in very good order in November. This jail is not so securely built, or carefully kept as to prevent escapes. The latest occurred the night before my visit, when the only prisoner remaining had effected his freedom by descending from the second story above the basement, through an opening made by a former convict into the room below, thence into the passage and so on through the entries past the family-rooms, by the front door upon the street! He was under sentence for a larceny, but the imprisonment did not seem to have wrought a very salutary influence, for he was charged with not having left the prison empty-handed. I understood that the food for the prisoners in this jail, and at Easton, was supplied from the table of the keeper.

Lehigh County at present has no poor-house; measures have been adopted to establish one. The citizens very justly concluding that it is both more humane and more economical to build a county-house, than to support, as heretofore, the poor of the county by letting them out to families willing indeed to take them at the lowest rates, but not securing or giving needful care.

The condition of the insane poor was represented as deplorable. I saw none in this county, but intelligent medical men concurred, as elsewhere, in the opinion that a hospital would be an inestimable blessing to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Schuylkill County Jail, is at *Orwigsburg;* in October it contained seventeen prisoners, twelve men and five women. The latter were in apartments by themselves and occupied two rooms, over-heated, not ventilated,

tolerably clean, and sufficiently furnished. There were beds and bedsteads. They go below to receive their food, which is passed from the men's yard, on which side is the kitchen, through an aperture in the gate-door, which connects the two exercise-yards. Conversation is not prevented. The men's rooms were quite decent; the size twenty-five by eighteen, and twenty by fourteen. Some of the prisoners were ironed for security. They receive three meals per day; the provisions sufficient in quantity and of good quality. No books, (except a few loaned by the keeper,) no employment, no moral or religious instruction; ample time and opportunity for conversation, and corrupting companionship.

Schuylkill County Alms-house, is well situated a short distance from *Schuylkill Haven;* the apartments of the main building are commodious, well-furnished, and kept in clean and neat order, but insufficiently ventilated in the cold season. Improvements have been making here in the general internal arrangements for several years. The various out-buildings are in repair, and the large new hospital for the sick and insane, chiefly for the latter, indicates that the citizens of Schuylkill county desire to do what can be effected in a county establishment, in procuring a degree of comfort and humane management for the insane. Of this class there are here about twenty-five, ten of which were in the hospital; these, both men and women, were in charge of a person called the steward, who is, or was, one of the paupers. I had no reason to doubt his fidelity, so far as his knowledge and ability should conduct him; he appeared attentive so far as I had an opportunity of observing, but his qualifications could not be such by education, as to make him a competent and responsible "care-taker" of the insane, farther than the mechanical labour is concerned. I understood a woman was sent daily from the main-building to assist in the early arrangements connected with the female apartments. I should think a better plan would be to appoint a competent female superintendent to take care of the women and to lodge at the hospital; she might also assist in watching the sick and attending to the invalids. The hospital apartments here, I think, are about seven by nine, and ten feet high, the windows were of good size, and the cells could be ventilated and warmed, perhaps sufficiently, with care. Several of the patients were exceedingly ungovernable, and most of them, I fear, not likely to recover the use of their faculties.

The farm connected with this county-house is large and valuable; it is said to be very well managed. Here is no school for children, and religious services rarely; but places of public worship in the neighbourhood, afford opportunity for those of the inmates to attend who are able and inclined to go.

Northumberland County Jail, in *Sunbury*, was in decent order. I found no prisoners, but learned that this prison was subject to all the objections which apply to the majority of county prisons. The prisoners were well supplied at their meals from the keeper's table, as I was told.

This county has no poor-house; the poor are distributed in the several townships as convenience and economy determine. I learned from a medical practitioner, and others, that there were in the county many cases of insanity, urgently claiming appropriate care; but the entire number of idiots, epileptics, and insane, I could not learn. Many suffer from absolute neglect, and some become, it is feared, incurable through want of remedial treatment.

I cannot conclude this very brief notice of Northumberland county, without referring to a "son of the soil," whose best energies are now successfully devoted in a sister state to conducting an institution for the insane: I refer to Dr. Awl, of Ohio, a name known there and repeated with affectionate gratitude by many, whom, in the providence of God, he has been instrumental in restoring to health, and to the blessings of family and social life. His annual reports urge constantly a timely care for insane patients, and humane provisions for all, whether recoverable, or beyond the reach of human skill to cure.

Perry County Jail, at *Bloomfield*, was in order and clean. There was but one prisoner, a young man charged with murder. His habits and character have earned for him no right to look for lively sympathy in his present jeopardy; but his case was judged of very leniently by some of the citizens—"He had only killed a poor old man who was half intoxicated, and who did nothing when he was alive."

Perry County Poor-house, near *Landisburg*, is a respectable establishment, having some good buildings, and a productive farm. The inmates, who in October numbered about forty, and were chiefly aged and infirm persons, appeared tolerably comfortable, and the rooms were arranged with reference to convenience and general order. A somewhat more immediate supervision might be better. The family who have the direction of the establishment reside in an adjacent dwelling. Here is no school; religious meetings, I understood, occasionally.

The rooms or cells for the insane, were in a small wooden building; these were above ground—*very small*—lighted somewhat, but very defectively ventilated, and badly constructed, the barred petitions exposing the patients to observation. There were three of the insane altogether incapable of being at large, or associated with the other inmates of the place. The day I was there though fires were necessary throughout the establishment, the clearness of the weather permitted them to be taken into the small enclosures, near the cells. I found them sitting upon the damp ground, in slight apparel, and exposed of course to colds and rheumatic attacks. I think in the winter some difficulties, if not danger, would be encountered in supplying the cells with sufficient warmth. The charge of keeping these poor creatures in any degree decent or comfortable, could not be easy, and would require a high sense of duty for its faithful performance. I have reason to apprehend they experience much suffering.

The number of insane and idiots in this county, I should judge was small, but I could not rely on certain information.

Cumberland County Jail, at *Carlisle*, was pretty clean, and for a prison so ill-built and ill-planned, pretty well arranged. The supply of food for the prisoners appeared to me not sufficient. The allowance is *one pound of bread per day*, and *three* pounds of meat per week, with nothing in addition, water as much as desired—they cook for themselves in one of the apartments of the jail. There is a large enclosed yard common to the family and the prisoners. There were seven in confinement in October, on various charges—no means of improvement from abroad or within—no instruction and no employment—and no impediment to evil communications. The jailer, on his part, did all the county required.

Cumberland County Poor-House is remarkably well situated, and has a well-managed, productive farm. The establishment is expensive to the county. In October there were one hundred paupers, seven of which were insane, not including some who were idiotic, and of feeble minds. At that time none were constantly in close confinement. An idiot girl has been the mother of four children; two of these were born and died before she was placed in the poor-house. Alms-houses, unless there is a well-arranged classification of the inmates, are surely not fit places for the insane and idiots. The "crazy cells" in the basement, I consider unfit for use in all respects. The insane and idiots in the county is said to exceed one hundred. *Chains and hobbles are in use.*

Dauphin County Jail, at *Harrisburg*, is undoubtedly one of the best conducted county-prisons in the United States. Like the jail in Chester county, it adopts the separate system with employment, and such instruction and advantages, as prisons constructed on this plan, secure to morals and habits. The provisions are excellent, and the food well prepared, and supplied in sufficient quantities. As a system, it is subject, in common with the Philadelphia County Prison, and that of Chester, to an objection in retaining criminals, whose offences render them subject to the State Peniten-

tiaries, and to terms of imprisonment exceeding a year in duration. This mistake will, it is believed, be remedied both by justice, and a necessity which a little longer experience will make plain. The discipline and moral training of the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries, adapt them to effect the objects of prison detention for extended sentences more surely than it is possible to secure in county prisons, where there are no teachers qualified and expressly appointed, to give appropriate instruction.

Religious service is held in the Dauphin County Jail on every Sabbath afternoon, by the clergy of Harrisburg, who have volunteered their services, and so fulfil the law of Christ, preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins "unto the poor and prison-bound." This instruction needs to be followed up by additional lessons. Many cannot read—they should be taught. Many are profoundly ignorant upon the plainest principles of morals, so far as teaching and example have reached them. They need help in these things—more aid than the inspectors or warden can have leisure to give; and these official persons are both vigilant and interested to benefit and reclaim the prisoner.

A well chosen library for the prison is much needed—and it is hoped that the benevolent citizens of Harrisburg will make it their work and duty to supply such books as are suited to the moral and mental wants of the convicts.

Repeated visits to the Dauphin County Jail have satisfied me of the kind and just discipline which prevails. Punishment is infrequent, and when imposed, is of no greater severity or duration than is absolutely necessary for securing compliance with the mild and necessary regulations of the institution.

The dimensions of the cells are eight feet by fifteen, and ten high; lighted at one end near the ceiling. Pure water is introduced through iron pipes, and the cells are maintained warm and dry by means of hot water thrown through small iron pipes in each cell. The bunks are furnished with a straw bed, replaced as often as necessary; and a sufficient quantity of clean bed-clothing. The apparel of the prisoners is comfortable and adapted to the season. I have found the prisoners in health and as good condition, physically, as the same number of persons following like employments and of steady habits abroad. There is no hospital room.

On the 1st of January, 1844, say the inspectors, in their report of the prison, there were *twenty-three* prisoners—fourteen of which were sentenced to labour; four to imprisonment, ("who might have employment if they wished,") and five, also conditionally employed, were waiting trial. During the year 1844, there were received *one hundred and sixty-five* prisoners, and during the same period, *one hundred and sixty-nine* have been discharged; leaving in prison, January 1st, 1845, fourteen. *Died, none.* The health of this prison is indeed remarkable.

The inspectors also remark, "As to the efficacy of the system of separate confinement, *combined with labour*, being the most perfect yet devised for the punishment and reformation of offenders, our experience during the past year, fully confirms all that our remarks expressed in the last annual report —*giving precedence* to the 'Pennsylvania, or separate system.'" The report concludes with a merited commendation of the warden, and other officers, for fidelity in the discharge of their duties. The fidelity extends to the inspectors, and is as commendable as it is rare in county jails.

The Dauphin County Poor-House, near *Harrisburg*, is a substantial brick building, of three stories with the basement, and one hundred and fifteen feet by forty. It is generally clean, comfortable and well furnished. I have visited it twice, and the whole condition of the establishment shows creditably for those who superintend it, and gives evidence of the benevolence, and just spirit of the citizens who established and support it. The number of inmates, the third of February, was one hundred and sixteen, of which, twenty-nine were children, thirteen imbecile and slightly deranged,

three epileptics, and four very crazy. One insane woman has, for several years, occupied a cell in the basement, which measures fifteen feet by six—it is lighted, and warmed by a stove set in the partition. She has long refused to go abroad. For those of the insane, who are quiet enough to be enlarged, *chains* are employed to restrain them from rambling to a distance. These are as light as is consistent with strength, but yet are a source of great discomfort and evident mortification to the wearers. This class here fall a good deal under the personal direction of the superintendents. The farm consists of two hundred acres, one hundred and forty of which are cultivated; a grist mill is on the premises, and is considered a valuable part of the property. The food is ample and of good quality. The bread, which is of fine wheat flour and mixed with milk, is excellent. The bed-clothing and wearing apparel is comfortable. The children, who are of suitable age are sent to the district school. Religious services are frequent. Medical attendance as often as is required.

Lebanon County Jail, at *Lebanon*, is built of stone, and is much on the same plan as other jails constructed thirty or more years since. It was tolerably clean. The only prisoner was a half-crazy imbecile man, who was committed for mischievously "burning the woods." He appeared to me incapable of any responsible act. His room was comfortable, and he was well cared for.

Lebanon County Poor-House, near the town, is a finely situated and liberally established institution. All the buildings are in repair, and the whole place respectably arranged, combining much comfort and convenience. This populous house had many infirm and invalid inmates. Several aged females, almost or quite imbecile, were not in so neat a condition as one would wish, but I learned that it was nearly impossible to render them more so. The house is very well furnished—the provision, as usual in the poor-houses, of excellent quality, and amply supplied. Wearing apparel also, as usual, good and sufficient. Beds and bed-clothing of excellent quality. This is an excellence which quite distinguishes Pennsylvania alms-houses, especially those of the Germans. There were no cases of violent insanity here in November, but several idiotic and imbecile men and women.

Berks County Jail, at *Reading*, is an old building, constructed with stone, upon an inconvenient plan, and subject to the objections of the common system of indiscriminate association of prisoners. I understand the plan of a new county prison is under consideration. Several prisoners occupied two of the four jail apartments. Here are no moral or religious influences, and no means for general or special improvement. Idle habits are confirmed, and good habits, if any, weakened or destroyed.

Berks County Poor-House, near *Reading*, is an extensive establishment, providing amply for the necessities and comforts of its numerous inmates. The buildings are large and commodious, constructed of brick, and well finished and furnished. There were, in the autumn, two hundred paupers; eighty of which were sick, infirm and insane, belonging to the hospital department. Of the insane, there were twenty-two. The salary of the matron of the hospital is insufficient. She is a person of uncommon energy and ability for that place. But while every care is taken that a poor-house can give, the insane cannot, for the want of the medical and moral treatment which their cases peculiarly require, be often restored. I am satisfied there can be few recoveries here, though the apartments appropriated for this class, are constructed and furnished on the plans most approved in modern hospitals for the insane. I can imagine nothing better. I have seen nothing elsewhere that will compare with the excellence of these arrangements altogether. No costs appear to have been spared to make the inmates comfortable, so far as the building and furnishing are concerned. The deficiencies are want of suitable exercise-grounds, for those who were too much excited to have the range of the premises, and who were incapable of employment; and the want of competent nurses to aid the matron.

The whole place was thoroughly neat. It may be offered as a model to all the counties in the State, for poor-house hospitals for the sick, and incurable insane, epileptics and idiots. Here they are safe and comfortable, as far as their condition permits. The insane and idiots in the county at large, I heard variously computed at from eighty to one hundred.

In the main building is a school for the children. The supply of well chosen books is altogether deficient. For a time there was very little moral or religious teaching. I understood this was to be resumed at no distant season. In nearly all the poor-houses in Pennsylvania, is found an apartment or chapel, exclusively appropriated to religious services. A knowledge of the language of the people is of course indispensable to useful influence. Few of the inmates understand English, except the most common colloquial phrases, and many of them not even these.

Montgomery County Jail, at *Norristown*, is a large stone building, capable of receiving many prisoners. I saw but one in November. The prisoner was not very clean, but neither was there much neglect. The ventilation was imperfect, and usually the rooms overheated—a very common fault in prisons and poor-houses. I understood the food was sufficient and suitable in quality.

Montgomery County Poor-House is several miles north-west from *Norristown*, and is a liberally managed establishment, so far as the furnishing of the various buildings and supply of provisions is regarded. There are three large dwelling-houses, besides numerous out-buildings. Two of the former have been long built—but one is new, and was designed to increase the accommodations for the sick and the insane. Attached to the poor-house is a large and productive farm, under good management.

The new hospital, erected at considerable cost, and I doubt not, in the idea of procuring much good for those who should occupy it, is unfortunately not well planned. The principal defects are in the basement, where the insane are placed. The cells for this class in the old building, were condemned by all who saw them, both in their construction, and the wretched condition to which the inmates were abandoned. To remedy some of these acknowledged evils the new cells were made. I confess, except that change of place may have been a benefit, I see nothing gained; nothing can be more defective than the ventilations and mode of warming the whole range of cells. They are offensive, dreary, and comfortless in the extreme. These miseries are augmented by the entire incapacity of those who have the immediate care of this department—the woman I saw employed there, had neither tact nor skill for that most responsible and difficult charge. An assistant, a blind man, could not be supposed to render assistance that would avail much. I do not know that there was a disposition to neglect duty, but ignorance of how to manage, and to meet the peculiar wants of these maniacs, was obvious at every step. I have found nowhere in Pennsylvania, so bad and hopeless a condition of things for the insane, especially for the excited and troublesome patients. I am sorry to say this, and especially, because I must believe that the overseers of the poor in the county, had meant to reach some better results. There is a very small confined yard, enclosed by a lofty wall, in which the insane men and women, for they are brought pretty promiscuously together, when out of the cells, may walk. This place is but a few yards square, and so shut in, as to have little the benefit of pure air—it also prevents a free circulation of air from reaching the cells. This admits remedy by knocking down the wall and extending it, so as to enclose *at least half an acre*, but better one or two. The patients were very indecently exposed, and I left this department of the establishment grieved and astonished. The upper stories of the building were well directed, and comfortable altogether, unless the needed repose of the sick and aged was disturbed by the shrieks and vociferations issuing from the insane cells, below the infirmary. This could hardly fail to be the case. At the Berks County poor-house hospital, one

felt that the miseries of the insane were mitigated—at the Montgomery County-house Hospital, they seemed perpetuated and aggravated. In the one was decency, cleanness and measured comfort—in the other nakedness, exposure and filth.

Bucks County Jail, at *Doylestown*, is a well built prison, in good order and repair. The apartments being comfortable and decent. I found here four prisoners, two men and two women, committed for immoralities, all occupying one room by day. It would appear that if evil communications are corrupting, they were not likely to leave the prison with amended purposes or repentant minds.

The County Poor-house is in Warwick township, three miles from *Doylestown*. The situation is elevated, pleasant and healthful. The farm is large, productive, and well cultivated. All things pertaining to it, are creditable to the management of the superintendent.

The main dwelling was generally neat and comfortable. There were in November one hundred and fifty paupers, twelve of whom were confined in apartments removed from the main building, and in and adjacent to the hospital. The whole condition of, and arrangement for, the insane, especially for the men, was very bad; very bad, indeed. Eight or nine were crowded into one small over-heated, unventilated room; the discomforts of which, were intolerable. The attendant, a pauper, appeared to do all in his power to maintain some little cleanness, but want of space, and many other wants, rendered these efforts nearly useless. A small lodging room over the apartment, in which I found most of the men, contains their beds, and miserable enough they were; yet here eight or nine are crowded each night, and in one bed two are required to lodge. The rattling of the *chains and hobbles* was the accompanying music to cries and other most discordant sounds. The history of some of these cases, as related at the poor-house, and as I learned them elsewhere, are very sad. An epileptic, particularly, moved my sympathies. He was, at the time I saw him, tolerably rational, and quite conscious of where he was, and how situated; but being liable to fits, at almost any hour, he was shut in with the other patients, who embraced the worst cases on the premises. He had a book, and looking up, as I paused beside him, said: "It's a hard place to be in, but I must bear it." It was hard, indeed; nay, it was more—it was horrible. What an experience of life; what a living death! The breaking down of the mind, under that terrible disease, was almost too much to be borne; yet how was all this aggravated by such companionship! Such loathsome revolting scenes! What contrasts does life not afford!

Delaware County Jail, at *Chester*, is a stone building, old, inconvenient, and very badly planned, but cleanly kept. On my first visit in July, I found three prisoners, two males and a female; two had severally been committed for vicious conduct. I found all of them together. And to my remark on the impropriety of such mis-arrangements, was answered, that it had "*always been the custom* to keep the prisoners together, and they had not thought much about it!"

I re-visited this prison in October, and found ten prisoners; nine men, and one woman; the latter at that time employed in the kitchen. The rooms were not very clean; they were over-heated, the beds as usual on the floor, and the prisoners of all ages and colours, congregated to amuse each other according to their fancy. The allowance of food is one pound of ship-bread to each prisoner, and as much water as they wish. The county, not the sheriff, is responsible for all defects here.

Delaware County Poor-house, several miles from *Chester*, is a large stone building, clean, well furnished, and well directed. The provisions are good and sufficient, and the food well prepared. Here were eighty-five inmates the third week in October; of these but few are children. From twelve to fifteen are insane and idiotic; were clean, and comfortable, with the exception perhaps of wearing *chains* and *hobbles*. None were in close

confinement; though such cases often occur. A small wooden building, constructed near the main dwelling, contains six cells, cleanly white-washed and scrubbed, furnished with a small but comfortable bed, but not capable of being warmed at all; accordingly they are disused during the cold season. Each is lighted by a grated window. There are in the basement of the main building four cells, lined with sheet iron, which are used for the violent patients when necessary. There are no recoveries reported in the poor-house through remedial treatment. "The most we expect," said one of the family, "is to do what we can for their comfort; we have no means for curing them." The entire establishment seemed excellently conducted, and but for the difficulty of managing the insane and idiotic, would afford a quiet home for the aged and infirm.

It is estimated that there are in Delaware county about seventy cases of insane and idiotic persons. The poor-house farm is large and productive.

Chester County Jail, at *West Chester*, is built of stone, upon the plan of separate imprisonment. The cells are of good size, perfectly clean, and well aired. The provisions supplied, are of excellent quality. The allowance is three meals daily, and as much as satisfies the appetite. There has been but one death, by disease, in four years, and this was by consumption, developed before admission; and one prisoner was pardoned in consumption, who was also sick when received. I think one man, who was received in a state of intoxication, committed suicide. An accident which has happened to a few lines upon my note-book prevents my stating the whole case. I copy from the warden's report to the board of inspectors, the following facts:

"We had in prison on the 1st of May, 1843,	32
We received, during the year, white males,	41
" " " " females,	3
Coloured males,	25
" females,	4
Making in all,	105
In prison on the first of May, 1844,	28

"The total number sentenced to labour, during four years, since removed from the old prison, is seventy-nine. Of these forty-seven could read and write; twenty-four could not read nor write; and eight could read only. Thirty-three of these prisoners were intemperate; twenty-eight of them temperate, and eighteen were moderate drinkers.

"We have manufactured, during the year 1843–44, fourteen thousand three hundred and ninety-four yards of cotton cloth, four thousand three hundred and fifty-seven yards of carpet, and made bags, four hundred and ninety-four. These have met a ready market, and afford a fair profit.

I visited this prison in July, and saw all the prisoners, of which there were twenty-nine. Twenty of these were convicts, and nine were waiting trial. They were in excellent health, often replying to my inquiry in the words, "I am right hearty." They conversed cheerfully, were clean in their persons and apparel, and presented a remarkable contrast to the sixty-eight prisons I have since visited, always ecxcepting the Moyamensing Prison, and that of Dauphin County. Some of the jails referred to were in Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio.

There were two of the prisoners above named, who, though in apparent health, were insane, a German and a Pole; the insanity of the former was produced by irregular life and intemperance. The case of the latter I did not learn. They both were in comfortable rooms, and were carefully attended. The defects at present in this prison are deficient moral instruction, and the want of a sufficient supply of well-chosen books; these should be furnished without delay. Those who cannot read should be taught, and to this writing and arithmetic might without disadvantage be added. I saw

a letter written by a prisoner, who had served out his time, and settled himself to an honest life. It was addressed to the warden, and shows that he was sensible of the kind influences which had been extended to him in prison.

"*Mr. Robert Irwin:*

"SIR:—I cannot but think from the gentlemanly mannner you treated me while I was with you, you will be glad to hear from me; and I do assure you, I shall always feel the most sincere gratitude and affection for you, and the other officers connected with the hall. The kind and manly course pursued by you and all in authority, is calculated to reform any one that has the least spark of honesty left in his heart. I have, by sad experience, found that any but an honest and upright course, will lead to wretchedness and misery."

Perhaps the writer might have arrived at this conclusion if he had spent his two years in idleness, associated with all the corrupt offenders received during that period, but I hold the faith that he was saved by being withdrawn from evil associates, and evil habits, and subject to discipline through kindness, employment, and the use of books.

CHESTER COUNTY POOR-HOUSE, near *Marshalton*, has been undergoing a steady improvement for some years, in its discipline and domestic arrangements. It is a large, old building, almost surrounded by smaller buildings and out-houses. There is a valuable farm under good cultivation. Early in July, there were *one hundred and fifty* paupers, from twenty to thirty of which were idiots and insane persons. Forty of the entire number were coloured, (these occupied part of two comfortable houses,) fifty were Irish, and sixty were Americans. About forty-five of the whole number are children. Five of the insane were in close confinement; ten were often added to this number, but at times were so well as to be allowed at large upon the premises, sometimes restrained by irons; the residue were always at liberty to go about the houses and yards. The health of the place was generally good; very few were seriously ill, but there were a few chronic cases. "About the hardest trial we have here," said the kind-hearted superintendent, "is parting with the children." The little creatures clustered around him like a swarm of bees; it was no "make believe love,' between them: the very babies stretched out the little arms to go with him.

I spent a long time about the buildings; and from cellar to attic, and attic to cellar, through the whole, all things were clean and in order. The mistress had inspired the people with an ambition rarely found amongst the inmates of a poor-house: an emulation each of the other, in maintaining well-ordered apartments. Not a speck of dirt was to be seen about the wash-boards, the window-sills, or any where; even the rooms for the craziest men and women, partook the general care. Here one saw that the oldest and least convenient buildings, might be made respectable and healthful, by proper attention to cleanliness and ventilation. All the insane were made as comfortable as their condition in a poor-house permitted. But here are no recoveries—here are no means for procuring essential benefits—what can be done is done, and it is a consolation amidst such inevitable miseries, to witness efforts for alleviating sufferings and evils which do not admit entire remedy. Curable cases should never be received here.

THE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY JAIL, at *Philadelphia*, situated in the district of *Moyamensing*, is a massive stone building, in the Gothic style of architecture. From the rear of the front edifice, the extensive halls run back at right angles; these contain three tiers of cells on either side. The two upper tiers being reached by means of railed corridors and galleries, extending the entire length of the blocks, which are ventilated and lighted from the roof. One block is appropriated to prisoners before trial. The other receives convicts who are sentenced, and who are here furnished with employment, and subject to a wholesome, but not rigid discipline. These blocks are exclusively for the male prisoners. The women's prison, divided by a high wall and intervening garden, is a separate building and establish-

ment, disconnected in all domestic arrangements, from the men's prison. This department is especially well ordered, clean, comfortable, and well managed. The prisoners are supplied with suitable work—with books, and have the benefit of moral and religious teaching, (not at the expense of the city or county,) from the moral instructor, who visits the prison at large, and from an association of pious and devoted women, who spare no pains to reclaim the offenders, and restore the outcast. Their benevolent efforts are not confined to the prisoners during their terms of detention, but they endeavour to extend care and influence beyond the walls of the prison. Their disinterested and faithful exertions, sometimes meet with their highest reward, in the good results which attend upon, and follow these labours. There are many in all prisons, who set at nought counsel, and scorn reproof, but this is no argument whereby a Christian community would find justification in refraining from employing every consistent and reasonable exertion to recover the sin-sick soul—to inspire virtuous sentiments, to raise the fallen, and to strengthen the weak. The moral teacher in this prison, is a missionary employed by a benevolent society. Would it be more than justice demands, since the courts sentence so many convicts to these prisons, for long terms, for the city to appoint and support a chaplain, at its own cost? The many hundred prisoners in the county jail, though a very unpromising class of pupils, certainly not the less on that account, should be faithfully visited and instructed. Is it not a mistake, however, to sentence to the county prison, offenders, whose crimes make them legitimate subjects for the Eastern Penitentiary? Sent there, where sufficient and effective arrangements are made for teaching the ignorant, and nourishing the moral nature, where the regulations are all in all, better adapted for their benefit, than can be those of the county prison; they would be subject, not to a severer discipline, but would receive a stricter justice, whether we consider their rights as men, or their condemnation as criminals.

The cells of Moyamensing prison, are of good and convenient size, well lighted, and ventilated, and in winter, well warmed. They are maintained clean, and well furnished, and are supplied with pure water by pipes. The food is of good quality, and of sufficient quantity. It is well prepared, and usually distributed with care. I have visited all the cells in this extensive prison, and conversed with the prisoners, and having spent the largest part of nine days in a diligent examination of their condition, and of the general arrangements and the discipline, I do not hesitate to say, it is conducted in a manner highly creditable to the officers, whose duty it is to govern and direct its affairs. There are some defects, but they may be chiefly remedied with due attention. Well chosen additions to the library are much needed, as also care in the distribution of the books. The prisoners were at liberty to communicate to me their grievances, if they had any, and to represent their condition without restraint. The only grave complaint, and it was twice repeated, was from a prisoner who desired a greater *variety* of food. Mutton and veal to vary his meals diet, and a larger variety of vegetables! There were three or four insane men, who had been committed on petty charges, and were not subjects for this prison, or any other.

The Eastern Penitentiary contained in January about three hundred and sixty-two prisoners. Within two years, *twenty-seven well-attested* cases of insanity, have been brought to this penitentiary. I do not wish to enter now upon an elaborate discussion of this subject. The gross injustice of sentencing and committing men to prison for crimes committed while governed by the delusions of insanity, appears so obvious, that no person of the least humanity or intelligence will deny the position. Is it not time that the penal code of Pennsylvania should be revised? In this respect especially it demands consideration. The criminal jurisprudence of insanity has engaged much attention during the last thirty or forty years. France has led the way to this just reform, declaring with precision and perspicuity, "that there is no crime nor fault when the party accused was in a state of insanity at the period of the act." The penal code of Louisiana contains an

act to the same effect, though less concisely expressed. That of New York lays down the same principle, with distinctness and precision: "No act done by a person in a state of insanity, can be punished as an offence, and no insane person can be tried and sentenced to any punishment, or be punished for any crime or offence committed in the state." These decrees, so philosophically just and humane, are worthy of being copied into every statute book of every nation. Several of the German principalities have long since adopted them. We have been slow in the United States to recognize this duty to a class of sufferers having peculiar and undeniable claims on the considerate and merciful care of every people. The English law on this subject is obscure; and successive acts of Parliament are both perplexing and contradictory. The high judicial authorities have from time to time declared opinions on these points, which, considering the times in which they were expressed, are distinguished only by their errors: and these inexcusable, because information of undoubted authority was within reach. The able medical governors of the hospitals and asylums, were both willing and competent to define insanity.

A vast many persons honestly believe, that most offenders for whose defence the plea of insanity is urged in courts of justice, are merely feigning a malady in order to escape the punishment consequent on crime. False pretences may be set up, and such have been, but to sustain these with the means of knowledge society now possesses in the experience of intelligent medical men, who have made this branch of their science a study, is not easy. The truth is, insanity is not a malady to be easily counterfeited, and those who undertake to simulate this disease, must have a very thorough acquaintance with its manifestations. There is no need to apprehend that in these cases either judge or jury may be imposed upon, if information is sought from those competent to determine this very grave and important question.

The insane who have been committed to the Eastern and Western State Penitentiaries, receive in those prisons such care and humane consideration, as the discipline, and general organization of these places permit. But granting for a moment that the insane do not suffer a great injustice in being committed to the state prisons, they inevitably, from the plan and arrangement of these institutions, are severe sufferers by such imprisonment; and one finds a sufficient argument for a State Hospital in the unhappy circumstances of the insane patients in the prisons, and jails, and alms-houses of Pennsylvania; without referring even, to another class, numerous and claiming benevolent consideration: I mean those who are not in affluent circumstances, and who borne down by this domestic calamity, are not able to meet the expenses of removal to, and cost of support in those institutions which are already established, and which have proved so great a blessing to large numbers of your citizens.

Pennsylvania has the high praise of having established a model prison on the separate system, which in its whole plan and government is worthy of being copied, wherever civilized life makes the establishment of prisons necessary for the security of society. I express this opinion in a full confidence, based on extensive knowledge of prisons and prison systems of discipline; and I am satisfied that no unprejudiced, intelligent mind, can examine deliberately and faithfully, the wards of the Eastern Penitentiary, and not arrive at the same conclusion. The best systems, it is acknowledged, exhibit defects; and the best systems badly administered may produce the worst consequences; but in the prison at Cherry Hill, one witnesses both the good system and the good administration united; and we wish not to see its harmonious order and just, but mild discipline, disturbed by the strange anomaly of uniting a State Prison and a State Hospital, criminal wards and lunatic wards. We wish not to see misfortune punished as crime, and crime raised to a level with misfortune.

I have said that within two years, *twenty-seven* insane persons have been committed to the Eastern Penitentiary, charged with various crimes. The

history of many of these, I have traced. I have resolved that no labour shall be spared on my part, in bringing facts to light. The testimony of intelligent citizens throughout the state, and the opinion of medical men acquainted with these cases, having had them under their care as patients, settles these points definitely. Men having been known as insane for years, committing recent crimes, still under the influence of insane delusions, are every month tried, and condemned, and sentenced, precisely as if they were in possession of a sound mind, and were responsible for their speech and deeds. The fact of their known insanity, is often recorded on the books of the prison, by the officers who convey them there. One often hears the now somewhat trite assertion, "Since we have no State Hospital, they must go to prison, that the lives and property of the public may not be destroyed!"

To this custom of sending so large numbers of insane men to the penitentiaries may be referred many of the aspersions and objections which have been adduced against the "Separate System."

All the Poor-Houses in the city and county of *Philadelphia*, reveal scenes of suffering through defective provision for the insane, and great mistakes in the care and management of them.

A majority of the paupers in this county are gathered into the poor-houses —that is, if the city and its districts, the Northern Liberties, Southwark, Kensington, Spring Garden, and Penn township, are included. Most of the other townships and villages in the county, I am informed, follow the old custom of "letting out the poor," or annually placing them in families, who agree to take them at the lowest rate, as in West Philadelphia, a part of Blockley township, &c., &c.

At *Germantown* is a Poor-House, which I have not visited since June; but I found it at that season very clean and comfortable. The pleasant weather permitted most of the people to be abroad, including some insane men, who under a degree of restraint, still found pleasure in the air and in exercise. One insane woman remained chiefly in her apartment, which was very comfortable, well situated and neatly arranged. This room she had decorated in a most fantastic manner with flowers, and leaves, and fragments of coloured cloth; she was tranquil and silent. There are many indigent persons in this township who find aid from the more direct charities of the benevolent citizens, and are with that assistance saved from the entire dependence consequent upon resorting to the poor-house.

I think it probable that in winter this establishment must be quite too much crowded for health, or for that degree of comfort and accommodation which should be secured to the aged and infirm inmates.

Roxborough Poor-House, which also receives some of the poor from Manayunk, I visited three times early in the summer of 1844. I found a remarkably neat, well-regulated establishment—too much crowded indeed, even at that season, and affording no suitable provision for the insane, of which there were five, and one idiot; beside these there were seventeen paupers. One, a young girl, in a state of dementia, was at times subject to violent paroxysms, and was exceedingly difficult of control. Another, a German woman, of middle age, from Manayunk, was highly excited, and, for the safety of others, as also for her own security, was closely confined *in the cells in the cellar*. Her strength and violence made it necessary for a man to take charge of her, the women of the house fearing and dreading her attacks. The superintendents of this house expressed much dissatisfaction and uneasiness at being obliged to use these underground apartments for this purpose. They were damp and in some respects unsafe. So far as the habits of the occupants and the situation of the cells would allow, they were made comfortable; and I think uniformly as the paroxysms subsided the insane were removed for a few hours to the upper part of the dwelling, and in suitable weather, taken into the enclosed yard at one end of the house.

There were no means here for any care of the insane, that could conduct to recovery. The exposures of every sort to which they are subject in

alms-houses, should be recollected by those who have the responsibility and power of determining if these shall last, or if by speedy legislation a fit asylum be opened for those who, in ceasing to exercise the reasoning faculties, cease from self-care, and have no more the capacity for governing their actions.

The PHILADELPHIA ALMS-HOUSE, west of the *Schuylkill*, is a vast structure built of stone, and capable of receiving above two thousand paupers. The main buildings alone, arranged in a parallelogram, cover and enclose an area of nearly ten acres. The average number of paupers in 1842, was fifteen hundred and forty-six, the inmates dispersing somewhat in the summer, but thronging again in winter. December 7th, 1844, the number was seventeen hundred, of which six hundred and ninety-nine only were natives of the United States.

This vast establishment is suitably furnished, and kept in remarkably neat order. Ventilation is complete, and every hall and ward exhibited a uniform attention to that promoter of health—thorough cleanliness. I remarked the want of regular employment for a vast number of the inmates, and learned, with no less surprise than regret, that the original judicious plan of providing work for the paupers, according to the measure of their strength and ability, had been superseded; and further, that the machinery, and other apparatus for carrying out a part of the original system, so necessary to preserve in any degree the morals of the place, was now on sale. I am not acquainted with the motives which have led to this determination on the part of the official governors of the alms-house; but it seems, according to all experience in life and civil economy, a great error of judgment to admit such numbers of able-bodied men and women to the benefits of the institution, and to maintain them either in idleness, or with insufficient occupation. The school was not regularly organized when I was there, and I could not learn that the moral training was such as most persons would determine to be sufficient to form the character, to correct ill-habits, and early to deepen impressions of truth, integrity, and good sentiments. There seemed to me too little education of the conscience. I am sensible that many children brought to this house are already imbued with pernicious ideas; that their propensities are often vicious, and their habits corrupt and corrupting. All this but strengthens the argument for their more careful education, that so they may, if possible, be saved from successive grades of demoralization, and from the prisons of the land. I do not impute to those who direct these children, any intentional omissions of duty, believing they perform all the guardians require, but I suggest that perhaps the present system will admit of improvement and reform.

The Blockley alms-hospital, is a very expensive institution, and those aids for sustaining it at less cost to the city, with equal comforts for the inmates, which are adopted in some large establishments of this sort in other States, are not here resorted to; for example, the large fruit, vegetable and flower gardens, sometimes cultivated, and affording an income of some thousand dollars to the poor-houses, are not here made available.

Again, useful employment is afforded, as at the Rochester alms-house, in New York, during the season when labour is not practicable on the farm, by cracking stone, for M'Adamizing the streets and roads.

Employment in these institutions, even if not made to yield a considerable income, seems of much importance. The virtuous poor are always willing to work according to the measure of their strength; while the idle vagrant, compelled to labour in the alms-house, will be more ready to seek work abroad, where he can be paid for it.

Of that department of the alms-house hospital, which is occupied for the insane, I feel great unwillingness to speak; but I believe I am not the first to suggest that it has great and fatal defects. Attention has been called to the subject, through the journals of the city, and I trust that there will be no long delay in changing the whole order of this department of the institu-

tion. In one respect, and it is no little praise to accord, it was unexceptionable—it was *clean, thoroughly clean.*

The men's department alone, for the insane, received from January 1st, 1843, to January 1st, 1844, three hundred and ninety-five patients; of these it is painful to record, that two hundred and forty-eight cases were produced by intemperance, and were not strictly hospital patients. The remaining one hundred and forty-seven are recorded under the general head of insanity.

Dr. Jarvis, of Louisville, Ky., who visited this hospital in 1837, and has since written a treatise on Insanity and Insane Asylums, thus describes the mode of treating excited patients at the Blockley alms-house; being a mode of restraint never at any period practised in our best asylums for the insane, and now, with one exception perhaps, disused altogether throughout the country. "A poor female was confined in a 'restraining chair,' made of plank; one strap confined each arm, another the waist, and another passed over the thighs, and held her down to her narrow prison. This girl was in a state of furious excitement; she was using the greatest struggles to extricate herself—she was kicking her feet, endeavouring to strike every one near her—she was boisterous and spat on every one within reach—she was the very image of a raging fury—and we were told that she had been in this excitement for three years, and the same means of straps and chairs had been as long used to calm her."

My first visit to this alms-house was in June, 1844. There were many visiters at that time beside myself. I anticipated something like change—amendment, since 1837. I supposed that in seven years the abominations of the present system, would so have disgusted, not only the official guardians of the house, but the whole public, that, with one indignant voice, they would have united to demand and enforce a more rational, not to say merciful, organization of the establishment. It was not so.

Entering the men's wing, we found the hall and rooms vacant; except three or four, in which were several excited patients who were necessarily shut up for a time—for how long a time one could not tell—nor who should determine these questions of restraint; here is no one competent, governing director; "care-takers," are selected from the paupers, and of their qualifications in general for such delicate and very difficult duties, others can judge who know somewhat of the wants and the dependence of the insane. The patients' rooms were very clean, and sufficiently furnished. We descended to the *exercise-yard*, and directly the men were "driven forward by a keeper," into a small grassed area, where they might sit down, or lie down, or do what they listed. Some were chained, and others muffled, that they might not do mischief. As if their own collective vociferations were not productive of sufficient discord, a fiddler from the other department was brought to increase the confusion. The worst feature here to my thought, was the *indiscriminate association* of all these insane men, without the smallest regard to the degree of insanity, or to the different physical and mental states they might exhibit; those who were conscious of their own malady, who were conscious where they were, in the alms-house crazy-ward; those who did not comprehend this, or comprehending, did not care; the drooping melancholic, the noisy maniac, the drivelling idiot, and the spasm-shaken epileptic, all were here *together.*

From this scene, revealing so little of appropriate and remedial care, we turned away, and followed our conductor to the women's department. Here, save a few who were in their rooms, in states of vehement excitement, we found the patients collected into one large room—the hideous tumult of which beggars description. The recent and the established cases; the tranquil and the excited; the conscious and the unconscious; were here in one "great, monstrous, horrid company," to adopt the expressive description of one of them—crying, shouting, laughing, screaming, moaning, complaining, rolling on the floor, moping in the corners, assuming all attitudes, and rousing each other to higher and higher exasperation; here they were, and here too, was sent the pauper musician, with the sharp, shrill, dissonant

fiddle, adding discord to discord, and commingling the war of words with the war of sounds, in rivalry of Babel! But this does not complete the picture. In a remote part of this large room, in a "tranquilizing chair," that monstrous invention, which merits a place with the instruments of inquisitorial torment, or the machines of rack and torture employed in the middle ages, by regal despotism, in *a tranquilizing chair*, was fastened a young and beautiful girl, in the highest state of frenzy, yet now and then becoming for a few moments tranquil. She smiled sweetly in her woe, and uttered half sentences, that moved many to tears. It was a sad and pitiable sight. Closely bound, hands, feet, and waist, she could only move the head and neck a little. Her beautiful hair fell in waves upon her neck, and there was a charm in her appearance, notwithstanding the wildness of the eye, that attracted all strangers. The "board of guardians," not less than the more infrequent visiters, drew towards her. I asked who she was, and whence she came. No one could tell. She had been found wandering in the outskirts of the city, and was brought there a few days before, raving mad. I saw her once again, some weeks later; she was still highly excited, and more unmanageable than before. I was consoled to learn, subsequently, that her friends had traced her from the upper part of the county, above Frankford, and had removed her home. A merciful change, but how much more merciful, if she could have had the benefit of skilfully-directed hospital care.

My second visit to the alms-house, produced new distrusts of the management of the lunatic department, and confirmed first opinions. I found in the men's ward, a poor man in a "tranquilizing chair," whose countenance wore an expression of agonized suffering I can never forget. His limbs were tightly bound, his legs, body, arms, shoulders, all were closely confined, *and his head also.* Feeble efforts to move were broken down by this inexorable machine. Upon the head, sustained by the apparatus which confined the movements of the neck, was a quantity of broken ice. This, as it gradually melted, flowed over his person, which, however, was in some degree protected from the wet by a stiff cape, either of canvass or leather. It was a very hot day, but he was deadly cold, and oh, how suffering! To suffer would have been his lot, perhaps, under any circumstance; but this treatment, "employed to *keep him still*," was a fearful aggravation of inconceivable misery. I asked how long he had been under this restraint. "Four days!" "What, day and night?" "No, at night we take him off, and strap him upon the bed." "How long will you keep him so?" "Till he is quiet." "How long have you ever kept the patients in this condition?" "Nine days, I believe, is the longest." It does not require much knowledge of the human frame, and of its capabilities to endure suffering, and resist destructive and injurious influences, to know whether such a mode of treating insane persons is remedial and restoring in its effects, or whether it does not seriously endanger life, and lay the foundation of various fatal ailments, in addition to the malady under which they are suffering. I am sure the intelligent and skilful medical men in Philadelphia, will concur in the opinion that this department of the alms-house calls for speedy and entire reconstruction. This can be accomplished with but little difficulty, and at a small additional expense. To doubt the willingness of the citizens of Philadelphia to promote this much needed change, would be to distrust that humanity and liberality which has never been found deficient, when benevolent objects have been presented for their consideration and support. Why the alms-house alone, of the numerous public charities of Philadelphia, should show a condition so adverse to the objects it proposes to accomplish, is a problem I cannot resolve.

If idleness is the nurse of vice and crime, it would seem consistent with the purest political economy, to provide employment for all who are able to labour in the alms-house. If education is important to the youthful mind, especially moral culture, then a more careful attention to the school would be a public as well as individual good. If benevolent institutions for the

protection of the friendless, and the recovery of the sick and disabled, to health and usefulness, are recognized as important and necessary in crowded cities and a densely inhabited country, then it is well that these should be so established as to procure for the recipients of charity, all the benefits which they can be made capable of securing.

The exciting causes of insanity in large cities are numerous. The poor and indigent are also numerous. If an extensive alms-house is necessary to receive the crowds, the thousands of sane paupers, surely a hospital on a curative foundation is also necessary, and to be preferred to a mere receptacle. In the one case, the maniac may be restored to reason and usefulness; in the other, there is a possibility, but it rests upon slight probability. It may be argued by some, that many who are sent to this hospital, are the victims of their own vices and indiscretions, and are undeserving the special care solicited. Many of them are unworthy: in all probability the majority may have abused their privileges, wasted property, and impaired their health by indulgences and excesses, which must be condemned. But shall not these find mercy, and pity, and succour? You do not abandon the criminal in the jail; the juvenile offender finds a "Refuge;" and the halls of your penitentiary echo to the voices of those who, by earnest counsels and instruction, strive to reclaim the convict from perverse and criminal habits, to rectitude and duty. Let not the erring, perhaps once vicious insane, alone be abandoned.

One of your own citizens has not long since said publicly, what none have attempted to disprove: that unless means are taken to discover the real condition of the insane in the alms-house hospital, the people of this community will justly incur the infamy of sustaining a moral nuisance, an establishment disgraceful to humanity, and a libel upon the present state of our knowledge of the proper treatment of mental disease."

The city and county of Philadelphia needs its own hospital and asylum for the treatment and protection of the insane; as the cities of New York and Boston, sensible of the necessity of such provision for this class of their poor, have theirs. All large cities, as witness those just referred to, and not less Philadelphia and Baltimore, need for their own dependent citizens, a well-established hospital.

It is but a few years since the alms-house of Suffolk County, Boston, revealed scenes of horror and abomination rarely exhibited, and such as we trust are now, in *the mass* at least, no where to be found in the United States. These mad-men and mad-women were the most hopeless cases, of long standing, and their malady was confirmed by the grossest mismanagement.

The citizens at length were roused to the enormity of these abuses; to the monstrous injustice of herding these maniacs in a building filled with cages, behind the bars of which, all loathsome and utterly offensive, they howled, and gibbered, and shrieked day and night, like wild beasts raving in their dens. They knew neither decency nor quiet, nor uttered any thing but blasphemous imprecations, foul language, and heart-piercing groans. The most sanguine friends of the hospital plan hoped no more for these wretched beings than to procure for them greater decency and comfort; recovery of the mental faculties for these was not expected. The new establishment was opened and organized as a curative hospital. The insane were gradually removed, disencumbered of their chains, and freed from the foul remnants of garments that failed to secure decent covering. They were bathed, clothed, and placed in comfortable apartments, under the management of Dr. Butler, now superintendent of the Retreat at Hartford. In a few months behold the result: recovering health, order, general quiet, and measured employment. Visit the hospital when you please, at "no set time or season," but at any hour of any day, you will find these patients decently clothed, comfortably lodged, and carefully attended. They exercise in companies or singly, in the spacious halls; they may be seen assembled reading the papers of the day: or books loaned from the library; some labour in the yard and about the grounds; some busy themselves in the vege-

table, and some in the flower garden; some are employed within doors, in the laundry, in the kitchen, in the ironing-room, in the sewing-room. In every part of the house a portion of the patients find happiness and physical health, by well-chosen, well-directed employment. Care is had that this does not fatigue, that it is not mistimed; and the visiter sees, amidst this company of busy ones, some of the incurables who so long inhabited the cages, and wore away life for years in anguish, encompassed by indescribable horrors. And though, of this once most miserable company, less than one-sixth were restored to the right use of their reasoning faculties, with but few exceptions, they are capable of receiving pleasure, of engaging in some sort of employment, and of being taken to the chapel for religious services, where they are orderly and serious. Such, to the insane paupers, of Suffolk county, Boston, have been, and continue to be, the benefits of the hospital treatment. Than theirs, no condition could be worse before removal from the old building; now none can be better for creatures of broken health and impaired faculties, incompetent to guide and govern themselves, but yielding to gentle influences and watchful care.

Gentlemen, I have endeavoured to show you in the preceding pages,—*First*, that the provision for the poor and indigent insane of your state is inappropriate, insufficient, and unworthy of a civilized and christian people: *Second*, that it is *unjust* and *unjustifiable* to convict as criminals and incarcerate those in prison, who, bereft of reason, are incapable of that self-direction and action, by which a man is made responsible for the deeds he may commit: *Third*, I have, in the description of your alms-houses, adding the opinion of the most intelligent men of your state, shown that these are, in all essential respects, unfit for the insane, and that while they may, with uncommon care and devotedness on the part of the superintendents and other official persons, be made decent *receptacles*, they cannot be made curative hospitals nor asylums for affording adequate protection for the insane: *Fourth*, still less can these ends be accomplished in private families, even where pecuniary prosperity affords the means of supplying many wants. But in those where this calamitous malady is united with poverty and pinching want, it is barely within the bounds of probability that the patient should recover. There is then but one alternative—condemn your needy citizens to become the life-long victims of a terrible disease, or provide remedial care in a State Hospital. Let this be established on a comfortable, but strictly economical foundation. Expend not one dollar on tasteful architectural decorations. In this establishment, let nothing be for ornament, but every thing for use. Choose your location where the most good can be accomplished effectually, at the least cost. Let economy only not degenerate into meanness. Every dollar indiscreetly applied is a robbery of the poor and needy and adds a darker shade to the vice of extravagance, in misappropriation of the public funds.

Choose a healthful situation where you can command at least one hundred acres, and better if a larger tract, of productive land, mostly capable of cultivation. Let the supply and access to pure water be ample and convenient: also consider the cost of fuel, which is a large item, in the annual expenses. Furnish your establishment by means chiefly of convict labour, from your two state penitentiaries, with mattresses, bed-clothing, chairs, &c. &c. You thus secure a sale for *their* work, and get good articles at reasonable cost for your own use. You will recollect that at some future time other hospitals will be needed and demanded, but let the location of the first have reference to sparing as far as possible to the poor at large, the heavy charge of travelling expenses. A substantial brick or unhewn stone building, not more than three stories high with the basement, to save labour, and the consequent multiplying of attendants, having the officers' apartments in the centre, and those of the male and female patients in the two wings respectively, will be found most commodious. Numerous minor considerations will, at a suitable time, receive a share of attention. But one thing should not be overlooked in a hospital designed to benefit *the people at large*. In this

state it must be recollected that the medical superintendent, the governing, resident physician, who alone can be head of such an institution, and also his assistant, must have *practical acquaintance with both the German and English languages*, which are spoken in this commonwealth. Nearly half the insane of the lower classes, east of the mountains, are Germans, and cannot, in general, utter a sentence of English; and the medical adviser would find no little embarrassment in directing the moral training and treatment of his patients, except he could speak their language fluently, and was familiar, by residence and practice, with some of their peculiarities and local customs. I have perceived the importance and value of this, from being frequently accompanied to the poor-house hospitals by the attending physicians, and as they have mixed with the inmates, addressing one in one language, one in another, I have seen that in a State Hospital for the Insane in Pennsylvania, it is absolutely necessary to possess these qualifications in order to be really successful.

If the mere outward manifestations of disease were to be studied and decided on, if no other influence were to reach the patient than a medical prescription for a symptom which could not be mistaken, it would be of little consequence in what language the physician conversed, or whether he possessed at all the gift of speech; but as much beside is to be embraced in intelligent, skilful hospital practice, your physician for the State Asylum must speak readily the two languages of the country, at least. The medical superintendent of a hospital for the insane, needs not only a quick perceptive faculty in detecting the characterizing symptoms of the various forms of this malady, but adding to this an acquaintance with the social habits of both the German and English classes, he should possess energy, promptness of action, and ready determination; he should have *active* business habits, and devotion to his profession. The very onerous duties which devolve on him will not nourish self-indulgence, or allow leisure for various pursuits: he must consecrate himself to the work, and he must concentrate all his energies, physical and mental, to promote the success and prosperity of the institution; making it, so far as human means are concerned, an asylum where the curable may find health, and the incurable alleviation and solace for their sufferings.

Gentlemen, of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, I appeal to your hearts and your understanding; to your moral and to your intellectual perceptions; I appeal to you as legislators and as citizens; I appeal to you as men, and as fathers, sons, and brothers; spare, I pray you, by wise and merciful legislation now, those many, who if you deny the means of curative treatment and recovery to health, will *by your decisions* and *on your responsibility* be condemned to irrecoverable, irremediable insanity; to worse than uselessness and grinding dependence; to pain and misery, and abject, brutalizing conditions, too terrible to contemplate; too horrible to relate!

Grant to the exceeding urgency of their case, what you would rightly refuse to expediency alone. Benevolent citizens of your commonwealth were the first of civilized people to establish a society for alleviating the miseries of prisons; shall Pennsylvanians be last and least in manifesting sensibility to the wants of the poverty-stricken maniac? Is the claim of the Lunatic less than that of the Criminal? Are the spiritual and physical wants of the guilty to be more humanely ministered to, than the bodily and mental necessities of the insane? You pause long, and hesitate to condemn to death the blood-stained murderer; will you less relentingly condemn to a *living-death*, the unoffending victims of a dreadful malady?

The wise and illustrious Founder of Pennsylvania, laid broad the basis of her government in justice and integrity: now—while her sons with recovering strength, are replacing the shaken *Keystone of the* Arch, may they, as in the beginning, find *their Salvation,—Truth, and their Palladium,—* Righteousness!

Respectfully submitted, D. L. DIX.

Harrisburg, February 3, 1845.

APPENDIX.

TABLE *showing the comparative expense of supporting old and recent cases of insanity, from which we learn the economy of placing patients in institutions in the early periods of disease; from the report of the Massachusetts State Hospital.*

No. of old cases.	Present Age.	Time insane, in years.	Total expense, at $100 a year, before entering the hospital, and $132 a year since; last year $120.	Number of recent cases discharged.	Present age.	Time insane, in weeks.	Cost of support at $2.30 per week.
2	69	28	$3,212 00	1,622	30	7	$16 10
7	48	17	2,004 00	1,624	34	20	46 00
8	60	21	2,504 00	1,625	51	32	73 60
12	47	25	2,894 00	1,635	23	28	64 40
18	71	34	3,794 00	1,642	42	40	92 00
19	59	18	2,204 00	1,643	55	14	32 20
21	39	16	1,993 00	1,645	63	36	82 80
27	47	16	1,994 00	1,649	22	40	92 00
44	56	26	2,982 00	1,650	36	28	64 40
45	60	25	2,835 00	1,658	36	14	32 20
102	53	25	2,833 00	1,660	21	16	36 80
133	44	13	1,431 00	1,661	19	27	62 10
176	55	20	2,486 00	1,672	40	11	25 70
209	39	16	1,964 00	1,676	23	23	52 90
223	50	20	2,364 00	1,688	23	11	25 70
260	47	16	2,112 00	1,690	23	27	62 10
278	49	10	1,424 00	1,691	37	20	46 00
319	53	10	1,247 00	1,699	30	28	64 40
347	58	14	1,644 00	1,705	24	17	39 10
367	40	12	1,444 00	1,706	55	10	23 00
400	43	14	1,644 00	1,709	17	10	23 00
425	48	13	2,112 00	1,715	19	40	92 00
431	36	13	1,412 00	1,716	35	48	110 00
435	55	15	1,712 00	1,728	52	55	126 00
488	37	17	1,912 00	1,737	30	33	75 90
		454	$54,157 00			635	$1,461 30

Average expense of old cases, - - - -	$ 2,166 20
Whole expense of twenty-five old cases, - - -	54,157 00
Average expense of recent cases, - - - -	58 45
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases till recovered,	1,461 30

From Dr. Awl's reports of the Ohio Institution, we extract the following tables:

In the report of 1840, the number of years that the twenty-five old cases had been insane, was 413; the whole expense of their support during that time, $47,590; the average, $1,903 60. The time that the twenty-five recent cases had been confined, was 556 weeks; the expense $1,400; the average $56.

In 1841, whole cost of twenty-five old cases,	$49,248 00
Average,	1,969 00
Whole cost of twenty-five recent cases,	1,330 50
Average,	52 22

In 1842, whole expense of twenty-five old cases,	$50,611 00
Average,	2,020 00
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases,	1,130 00
Average,	45 20

In this Institution, in 1843, twenty old cases had cost,	$44,782 00
Average cost of old cases,	2,239 10
Whole expense of twenty recent cases, till recovered,	1,308 30
Average cost of recent cases,	65 41

In the Massachusetts State Lunatic Asylum, in 1843, twenty-five old cases had cost,	$54,157 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,166 20
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases, till recovered,	1,461 30
Average expense of recent cases,	58 45

In the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, in 1844, twenty-five old cases had cost,	$35,464 00
Average expense of old cases,	1,418 56
Whole expense of twenty-five recent cases,	1,608 00
Average expense of recent cases,	64 32

In the Maine Lunatic Hospital, in 1842, twelve old cases had cost,	$25,300 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,108 33
Whole expense of twelve recent cases,	426 00
Average expense of recent cases,	35 50

In the Hospital at Staunton, Va., twenty old cases had cost,	$41,633 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,081 65
Whole expense of twenty recent cases,	1,265 00
Average expense of recent cases,	63 25

The results of this table are so striking, and show so conclusively the importance of the early admission to the insane hospitals, that many other institutions have instituted the same inquiry with similar results.

TABLE (*from Dr. Awl's Sixth Report for* 1844, *of the State Hospital, at Columbus, Ohio,*) *showing the comparative expense of supporting old and recent cases of insanity.*

No. of old cases.	Present age.	Duration, in years, of insanity before admission.	Cost of support before admission, at $2 per week.	Number of recent cases.	Age.	Duration of insanity before admission.	Time in weeks, spent in the asylum.	Cost of cure, at $3 per week.
1	42	18	$1,872 00	1	29	1 month.	20	$60 00
2	45	11	1,144 00	2	22	6 "	18	54 00
3	35	13	1,352 00	3	35	5 "	15	45 00
4	40	12	1,248 00	4	26	4 "	9	27 00
5	38	15	1,560 00	5	41	8 "	43	129 00
6	38	10	1,040 00	6	37	5 "	16	48 00
7	42	10	1,040 00	7	27	7 "	59	177 00
8	40	15	1,560 00	8	34	4 "	15	45 00
9	40	20	2,080 00	9	31	1 "	18	54 00
10	40	9	936 00	10	22	9 "	13	39 00
11	50	10	1,040 00	11	18	1 week.	11	33 00
12	48	11	1,144 00	12	29	2 months.	52	156 00
13	45	9	936 00	13	23	5 "	25	75 00
14	35	10	1,040 00	14	24	8 "	5	15 00
15	57	27	2,808 00	15	28	2 "	13	39 00
16	57	10	1,040 00	16	45	4 "	14	42 00
17	28	13	1,352 00	17	28	4 "	26	78 00
18	49	21	2,184 00	18	41	1 "	23	69 00
19	43	15	1,560 00	19	24	3 "	15	45 00
20	45	10	1,040 00	20	32	2 "	15	45 00
21	29	14	1,456 00	21	20	5 "	33	99 00
22	33	10	1,040 00	22	20	8 "	29	87 00
23	40	28	2,912 00	23	21	5 "	8	24 00
24	39	10	1,040 00	24	31	5 days.	16	48 00
25	40	10	1,040 00	25	25	10 months.	25	75 00
			$35,464 00					$1,608 00

Average number of years for each case before admission into the asylum, 13⅔.
Average number of weeks spent in the asylum, 21½.
Average cost of each case before admission into the asylum, $1,418 56.
Average cost of each recovery in the asylum, $64 32.

AN ACT

To establish an Asylum for the Insane Poor of this Commonwealth, to be called "The Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital and Union Asylum for the Insane."

SECTION 1.—*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That Jacob M. Haldeman, Luther Reily, Hugh Campbell, Charles B. Trego, and Joseph Konigmacher, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to select and purchase a tract of not less than one hundred acres, situated within ten miles of Harrisburg, which said tract of land shall not cost more than ten thousand dollars, shall have a never-failing supply of water on the premises, and be conveniently situated for receiving supplies of fuel: *Provided,* That the said Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services, other than their necessary expenses: *And Provided also,* That if any person or persons shall make a gift of such a tract, the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to receive a deed for the same, in trust for the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, and the sum of fifteen thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting and constructing the hereinafter described building and buildings: *Provided,* That the said fifteen thousand dollars shall not be paid until the conveyance of the aforesaid tract of land shall have been made as provided for in this section: *Provided also,* That the sum hereby appropriated shall be retained by the State Treasurer out of the amount of relief notes, to be cancelled on the thirty-first of July, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

SEC. 2.—At any time after said site shall be obtained by the said Commissioners, not exceeding three months, they shall contract for the erection of said asylum, on the most approved plan, on such terms as are just and prudent: *Provided,* That said Hospital building shall be constructed in the most approved manner, of brick or unhewn stone; the foundations to be substantial, and of rough mason work; the basements above ground of hammered stone; water-table, window and door sills, window and door caps, and door steps of the same material; partition walls to be brick, and to contain flues for ventilators, furnace flues for heating, and also water-pipes if necessary; the roof to be of slate or tin-plate fire-proof.

SEC. 3.—Said Commissioners shall, on or before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and on the first day of January annually thereafter, until the buildings are completed respectively, render to the proper accounting officers of the Commonwealth, an exact account of all the contracts, expenses and liabilities which they shall have incurred, or authorized in the execution of their commissions, with vouchers for the same; and in case of their failure so to do, their authority to draw on the State Treasurer for such sum or sums of money as shall hereafter be specified shall cease; and said Commissioners shall so build, finish and furnish said asylum, that the whole cost of said buildings and furniture, with suitable apparatus for heating the rooms, for cooking, and for furnishing water for all the uses of the establishment, to accommodate two hundred and fifty patients, and the necessary attendants, shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars: *And provided also,* That the Commissioners appointed by this act, before entering upon their duties, shall give bond with such security as may be required by the executive for the faithful and proper application of the funds placed in their hands and performance of their duties.

SEC. 4.—The treasurer is hereby directed to pay to the said Commissioners, on the warrant of the Governor, out of any moneys that may be in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, such sum or sums of money as they may require for building said asylum, together with the necessary outbuildings, and the complete finishing and furnishing of the same, not exceeding in the whole the said sum of fifteen thousand dollars, at such times as they may be wanted, the expenditure thereof to be accounted for to the Auditor General of the Commonwealth.

Sec. 5.—The Governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint nine persons to be trustees of the said institution, who shall be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the "Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital and Union Asylum for the Insane," and shall manage and direct the concerns of the institution, and make all necessary by-laws and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth; and shall have power to receive, hold, dispose of, and convey all real and personal property conveyed to them by gift, devise, or otherwise, for the use of said institution, and shall serve without compensation; of those first appointed, three shall serve for one year, three for two years, three for three years, and at the expiration of the respective periods, the vacancies to be filled by appointments for three years; and should any vacancy occur by death, resignation or otherwise, of any trustee, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired time of said trustee. The said trustees shall have charge of the general interests of the institution; they shall appoint the Superintendent who shall be a skilful physician, subject to removal or reelection no oftener than in periods of ten years, except by infidelity to the trust reposed in him or for incompetency—said physician shall always reside in the asylum, he shall be a married man, and his family shall reside with him; the trustees by and with the consent of the Governor, shall make such by-laws and regulations for the government of the asylum as shall be necessary; they shall appoint a treasurer, who shall give bonds to the Commonwealth for the faithful discharge of his duties; they shall determine his compensation for services, also the salaries of the other officers and assistants, who may be necessary for the just and economical administration of the affairs of said hospital.

Sec. 6.—The superintending physician shall appoint and exercise entire control over all subordinate officers and assistants in the institution, and shall have entire direction of the duties of the same.

Sec. 7. The said trustees and their successors in office, shall have power to take and hold in trust, for the use and benefit of said asylum, any grant or devise of land, and any donation or bequest of money, or other personal property to be applied to the maintenance of insane persons, in or to the general use of the asylum.

Sec. 8.—The admission of insane patients from the several counties of the Commonwealth, shall be in the ratio of their insane population: *Provided*, That each county shall be entitled to send at least one insane patient.

Sec. 9.—Indigent persons and paupers shall be charged for medical attendance, board and nursing, while residents in the hospital, no more than the actual cost; paying patients, whose friends can pay their expenses, and who are not chargeable upon townships or counties, shall pay according to the terms directed by the trustees.

Sec. 10.—The Courts of this Commonwealth shall have power to commit to said asylum any person who having been charged with an offence punishable by imprisonment or death, who shall have been found to have been insane, in the manner now provided by law, at the time the offence was committed, and who still continues insane, and the expenses of said persons, if in indigent circumstances, shall be paid by the county to which he or she may belong by residence.

Sec. 11.—That it shall be the duty of the Court, in all cases where they shall commit any person to the asylum to certify to the trustees the legal settlement of such person, if he or she have any legal settlement in this Commonwealth; and if such person shall have no such settlement, then to certify the place of residence of such person at the time of offence committed, on application made, and the poor district so certified to be the place of settlement or residence of such person, shall be chargeable with the expenses of his or her care and maintenance, and removal to and from said asylum: *Provided*, That the settlement or residence of any such person shall not be so certified, until after due notice shall have been given to the constituted authority having charge of poor in the district to be charged thereby.

Sec. 12.—The several constituted authorities having care and charge of the poor in the respective counties, districts and townships of this Commonwealth, shall have authority to send to the asylum such insane paupers under their charge as they may deem proper subjects; and they shall be severally chargeable with the expenses of the care, and maintenance, and removal to and from the asylum, of such paupers.

Sec. 13.—If the guardian, directors, or overseers of the poor, to whom any patient who shall be in the asylum is chargeable, shall neglect or refuse, upon demand made, to pay to the trustees the expenses of the care, maintenance and removal of such patient, and also, in the event of death, of the funeral expenses of such patient, the said trustees are hereby authorized and empowered to collect the same as debts of a like nature are now collected.

Sec. 14.—That if any person shall apply to any Court of record within this Commonwealth, having jurisdiction of offences which are punishable by imprisonment for the term of ninety days or longer, for the commitment to the said asylum of any insane person within the county in which such Court has jurisdiction, it shall be the duty of the said Court to inquire into the fact of insanity in the manner provided by law; and if such Court shall be satisfied that such person is, by reason of insanity, unsafe to be at large, or is suffering any unnecessary duresse or hardship, such Court shall, on the application aforesaid, commit such insane person to said asylum.

Sec. 15.—In order of admission, the indigent insane of this Commonwealth shall always have precedence of the rich; and while the finances of the State do not permit ample provisions for all cases of insanity, recent cases shall have preference over those of long standing.

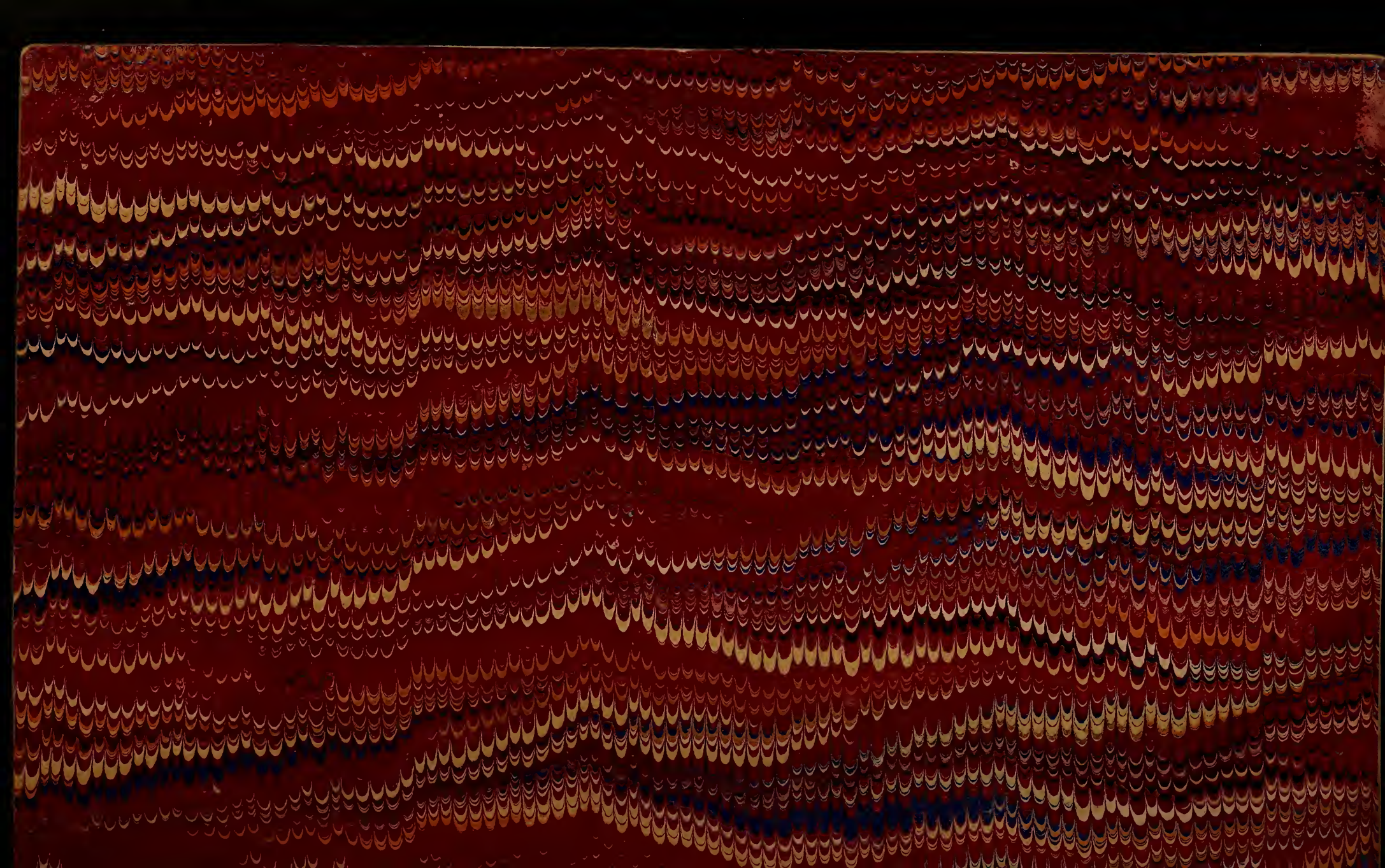
Sec. 16. The Governor, Judges of the several Courts of record in the Commonwealth, and the members of the Legislature, shall be ex officio visiters of the institution.

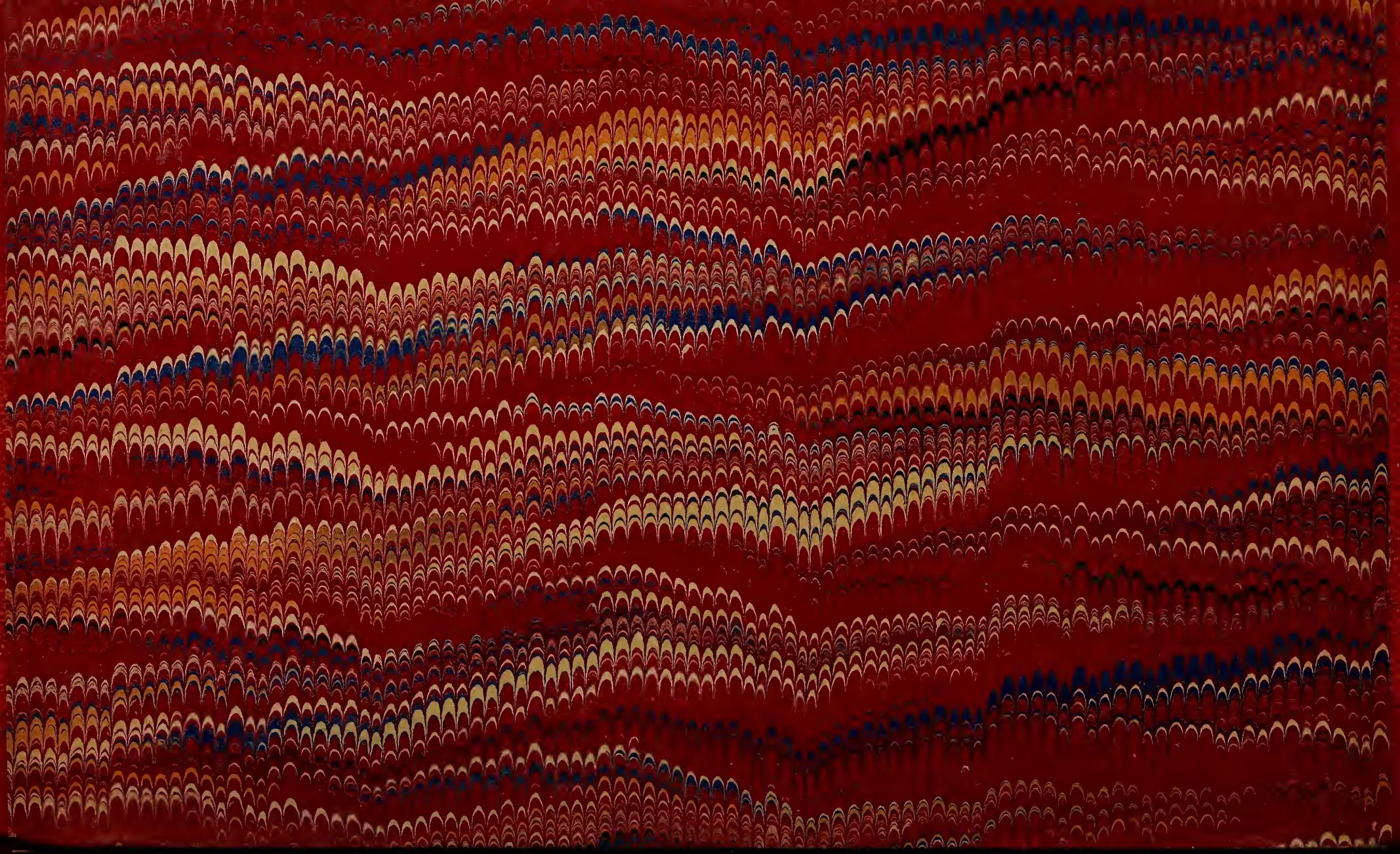
Sec. 17.—That the Commissioners appointed by the first section of this act, are hereby authorized and required to appoint a committee of five, in every city and county of this Commonwealth, to solicit and receive private subscriptions for this laudable and benevolent object, and from time to time pay the same over to the State Treasurer, and the State Treasurer is hereby directed to pay to the Commissioners aforesaid all such sum or sums of money thus received to aid in the erection of said asylum.

FINDLEY PATTERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
WILLIAM P. WILCOX,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved—The fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

FRS. R. SHUNK.





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